

House Concurrent Resolution No. 98

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KIDD.

6579H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to Shingles Awareness and Prevention Month in Missouri.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

1 **WHEREAS**, herpes zoster (shingles) is a disease caused by the same virus (zoster) that
2 causes chickenpox; therefore, any individual who has contracted chickenpox is at risk for
3 shingles, corresponding to approximately ninety-eight percent of U.S. adults; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, nearly one in three people in the United States will contract shingles in their
6 lifetime, corresponding to an estimated one million people annually; and
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8 **WHEREAS**, the risk of shingles increases with age, with nearly half of those affected
9 being over sixty years old and half of people living until eighty-five years old developing
10 shingles; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash that can be severe,
13 along with other symptoms, including long-term nerve pain, fever, headache, chills, upset
14 stomach, muscle weakness, skin infection, scarring, and a decrease or loss of vision or hearing;
15 and
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17 **WHEREAS**, as many as twenty percent of adults who have contracted shingles will
18 develop postherpetic neuralgia, a debilitating complication of shingles that causes severe pain
19 and that may interfere with sleep and recreational activities and be associated with clinical
20 depression; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, vaccines have reduced the burden of widespread and often fatal diseases,
23 enabling individuals to lead longer and healthier lives while reducing health care costs; and
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25 **WHEREAS**, much attention has been paid to the importance of childhood vaccinations,
26 but there is a general lack of awareness of adult-recommended vaccines and a misperception that
27 immunizations are unnecessary for healthy adults; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and
30 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that healthy adults fifty
31 years and older be vaccinated against shingles to prevent shingles and shingles-related
32 complications; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, despite the recommendations of CDC officials and other experts that all
35 healthy adults fifty years and older be vaccinated against shingles, as of 2015 only thirty percent
36 of eligible adults had received the shingles vaccine; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, the annual economic burden of shingles in American adults is estimated
39 to be between \$782 million and \$5 billion; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, the Institute of Medicine has stated that one of the six causes of excess
42 costs in the U.S. health care system is missed prevention opportunities; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, millions of American adults go without routine and recommended
45 vaccinations because medical systems are not designed to ensure that adults receive regular
46 preventive health care; and

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48 **WHEREAS**, as the month of August is observed as National Immunization Awareness
49 Month, residents of Missouri should be encouraged to speak with their health care provider to
50 ensure that they have been properly vaccinated against shingles according to current CDC and
51 ACIP recommendations:

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53 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
54 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
55 concurring therein, hereby designate August as "Shingles Awareness and Prevention Month" in
56 Missouri to increase public awareness of the importance of adults receiving vaccines against
57 shingles and to promote outreach and education efforts concerning adult vaccinations; and

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59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Health and Senior Services
60 shall take appropriate action to promote Shingles Awareness and Prevention Month, including

61 urging health care practitioners to discuss vaccines for shingles with adult patients and adopting
62 appropriate programs and initiatives to raise public awareness of the importance of adult
63 vaccinations; and

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65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Health and Senior Services
66 shall create and disseminate educational resources on shingles and shingles vaccinations to
67 educate the residents of Missouri on vaccine-preventable diseases, including shingles; and

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69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
70 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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