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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Herpes zoster (shingles) is a disease caused by the same virus (zoster) that causes chickenpox; therefore, any individual who has contracted chickenpox is at risk for shingles, approximately 98% of U.S. adults; and

WHEREAS, Nearly one in three people in the U.S. will contract shingles in their lifetime, corresponding to an estimated one million people annually; and

WHEREAS, The risk of shingles increases with age, with nearly half of those affected over 60 years of age; half of people living until 85 years of age will develop shingles; and

WHEREAS, Shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash that can be severe; other symptoms include long-term nerve pain, fever, headache, chills, upset stomach, muscle weakness, skin infection, scarring, and decrease or loss of vision or hearing; and

WHEREAS, As much as 20% of adults who have contracted shingles will develop postherpetic neuralgia, a debilitating complication of shingles that causes severe pain that may interfere with sleep and recreational activities and can be associated with clinical depression; and

1           WHEREAS, Vaccines have reduced the burden of widespread and  
2 often fatal diseases, enabling individuals to lead longer and  
3 healthier lives while reducing health care costs; and

4           WHEREAS, Although much attention has been paid to the  
5 importance of childhood vaccinations, there is a general lack  
6 of awareness of adult-recommended vaccines and a misperception  
7 that immunizations are unnecessary for healthy adults; and

8           WHEREAS, The United States Centers for Disease Control and  
9 Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization  
10 Practices (ACIP) recommend that healthy adults 50 years and  
11 older be vaccinated against shingles to prevent shingles and  
12 shingles-related complications; and

13           WHEREAS, Despite the recommendations of CDC officials and  
14 other experts that all healthy adults be vaccinated against  
15 shingles, as of 2015 only 30% of eligible adults had received  
16 the shingles vaccine; and

17           WHEREAS, The annual economic burden of shingles in American  
18 adults is estimated to be between \$782 million and \$5 billion;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has stated that

1 one of the six causes of excess costs in the U.S. healthcare  
2 system is missed prevention opportunities; and

3 WHEREAS, Millions of American adults go without routine and  
4 recommended vaccinations because our medical system is not set  
5 up to ensure that adults receive regular preventive healthcare;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The month of August is observed as National  
8 Immunization Awareness Month; residents of Illinois should be  
9 encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider to ensure  
10 that they have been properly vaccinated against shingles  
11 according to current CDC and ACIP recommendations; therefore,  
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
15 declare August of 2018 as "Shingles Awareness and Improvement  
16 Month" in the State of Illinois to increase public awareness of  
17 the importance of adults receiving vaccines against shingles  
18 and to promote outreach and education efforts concerning adult  
19 vaccination; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Health is urged to  
21 take appropriate action to promote "Shingles Awareness and  
22 Improvement Month", including urging health care practitioners

1 to discuss vaccines for shingles with adult patients and  
2 adopting appropriate programs and initiatives to raise public  
3 awareness of the importance of adult vaccination; and be it  
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Health is urged to  
6 create and disseminate educational resources on shingles and  
7 shingles vaccination to educate the residents of Illinois on  
8 vaccine-preventable diseases; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 delivered to the Department of Public Health.