

**2018 -- H 8195**

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LC005664  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY TO BE "SHINGLES AWARENESS AND  
IMPROVEMENT MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, Costantino, Almeida, Fellela, and Serpa

Date Introduced: May 15, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Herpes zoster (shingles) is a disease caused by the same virus (zoster) that  
2 causes chicken pox; therefore, any individual who has contracted chickenpox (approximately 98  
3 percent of United States adults) is at risk for shingles; and

4           WHEREAS, Nearly one in three people in the United States will contact shingles in their  
5 lifetime corresponding to an estimated one million people annually; and

6           WHEREAS, The risk of developing shingles increases with age, with nearly half of those  
7 affected being over the age of 60. Half of the population living to the age of 85 will contract  
8 shingles; and

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

12           WHEREAS, As much as twenty percent of adults who have contracted shingles will  
13 develop postherpetic neuralgia, a debilitating complication of shingles that causes severe pain. It  
14 also may interfere with sleep and recreational activities, and can be associated with clinical  
15 depression; and

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

18           WHEREAS, The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and  
19 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that healthy adults 50

1 years and older be vaccinated against shingles to prevent shingles-related complications; and

2 WHEREAS, Despite the recommendations of CDC officials and other experts that all  
3 healthy adults be vaccinated against shingles, as of 2015, only thirty percent of eligible adults had  
4 received the shingles vaccine; and

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

7 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine (IOM), has stated that one of the six causes of  
8 excess costs in the United States health care system is missed prevention opportunities; now,  
9 therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
11 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims the Month of May to be "Shingles Awareness and  
12 Improvement Month" in the State of Rhode Island in order to increase public awareness of the  
13 importance of adults receiving vaccines against shingles, and to promote outreach and education  
14 efforts concerning adult vaccination; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Nicole Alexander-Scott, M.D., M.P.H.,  
17 Director, Rhode Island Department of Health.

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