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HOUSE MEMORIAL 78

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, PHARMACISTS AND OTHER
HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PROMOTE SHINGLES AWARENESS AND ADULT
VACCINATION AGAINST SHINGLES.

WHEREAS, according to the United States centers for
disease control and prevention, herpes zoster, commonly known
as the condition called "shingles", is a disease caused by the
same "zoster" virus that causes chickenpox; and

WHEREAS, any individual who has contracted chickenpox is
at risk for shingles, which includes approximately ninety-eight
percent of adults in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to experts, nearly one in three people
in the United States will contract shingles in their lifetime,
corresponding to an estimated one million people annually; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States centers for

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1 disease control and prevention, the risk of contracting
2 shingles increases with age, with nearly one-half of those
3 affected over sixty years of age, and one-half of people living
4 until eighty-five years of age will develop shingles; and

5 WHEREAS, shingles is a viral infection that causes a
6 painful rash that can be severe, along with other symptoms,
7 including long-term nerve pain, fever, headache, chills, upset
8 stomach, muscle weakness, skin infection, scarring and decrease
9 or loss of vision or hearing; and

10 WHEREAS, as many as twenty percent of adults who have
11 contracted shingles will develop postherpetic neuralgia, a
12 debilitating complication of shingles that causes severe pain,
13 may interfere with sleep and recreational activities and may be
14 associated with clinical depression; and

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

18 WHEREAS, although much attention has been paid to the
19 importance of childhood vaccinations, there is a general lack
20 of awareness of adult-recommended vaccines and a misperception
21 that immunizations are unnecessary for healthy adults; and

22 WHEREAS, the United States centers for disease control and
23 prevention and the advisory committee on immunization practices
24 recommend that all healthy adults fifty years of age and older
25 be vaccinated against shingles to prevent shingles and

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1 shingles-related complications; and

2 WHEREAS, despite the recommendations of United States
3 centers for disease control and prevention officials and other
4 experts that all healthy adults be vaccinated against shingles,
5 only thirty percent of eligible adults over sixty years of age
6 had received the shingles vaccine as of 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, the annual economic burden of shingles in
8 American adults is estimated to be between seven hundred
9 eighty-two million dollars (\$782,000,000) and five billion
10 dollars (\$5,000,000,000); and

11 WHEREAS, the national academy of medicine, formerly known
12 as the institute of medicine, has stated that one of the six
13 causes of excess costs in the United States health care system
14 is missed prevention opportunities; and

15 WHEREAS, millions of American adults go without routine
16 and recommended vaccinations because the medical system is not
17 set up to ensure that adults receive regular preventive health
18 care; and

19 WHEREAS, residents of New Mexico should be encouraged to
20 speak with their health care provider to ensure that they have
21 been properly vaccinated against shingles according to current
22 United States centers for disease control and prevention and
23 advisory committee on immunization practices recommendations;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that pharmacists and

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1 all health care providers be requested to increase public
2 awareness for the importance of adults receiving vaccines
3 against shingles and to promote outreach and education efforts
4 concerning adult vaccination; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
6 requested to take appropriate action to promote shingles
7 awareness, including urging health care practitioners to
8 discuss vaccines for shingles with adult patients and adopting
9 appropriate programs and initiatives to raise public awareness
10 of the importance of adult vaccination; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
12 requested to undertake a study to examine the barriers to
13 shingles vaccination uptake, as well as any potential actions
14 that could increase shingles vaccination rates; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
16 requested to create and disseminate educational resources on
17 shingles and shingles vaccinations, as well as host regular
18 health- and immunization-focused fairs to educate the residents
19 of New Mexico on vaccine-preventable diseases, including
20 shingles; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
22 requested to develop a state adult immunization plan, modeled
23 on the national adult immunization plan in collaboration with
24 government and nongovernment stakeholders in New Mexico, that
25 aims to increase adult immunization rates in the state for all

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1 vaccines recommended by the federal centers for disease and
2 control and prevention and the advisory committee on
3 immunization; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the secretary of health.

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