

1 A MEMORIAL

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

5
6 WHEREAS, according to the United States centers for
7 disease control and prevention, herpes zoster, commonly known
8 as the condition called "shingles", is a disease caused by
9 the same "zoster" virus that causes chickenpox; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, according to the United States centers for
18 disease control and prevention, the risk of contracting
19 shingles increases with age, with nearly one-half of those
20 affected over sixty years of age, and one-half of people
21 living until eighty-five years of age will develop shingles;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, shingles is a viral infection that causes a
24 painful rash that can be severe, along with other symptoms,
25 including long-term nerve pain, fever, headache, chills,

1 upset stomach, muscle weakness, skin infection, scarring and
2 decrease or loss of vision or hearing; and

3 WHEREAS, as many as twenty percent of adults who have
4 contracted shingles will develop postherpetic neuralgia, a
5 debilitating complication of shingles that causes severe
6 pain, may interfere with sleep and recreational activities
7 and may be associated with clinical depression; and

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

11 WHEREAS, although much attention has been paid to the
12 importance of childhood vaccinations, there is a general lack
13 of awareness of adult-recommended vaccines and a
14 misperception that immunizations are unnecessary for healthy
15 adults; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States centers for disease control
17 and prevention and the advisory committee on immunization
18 practices recommend that all healthy adults fifty years of
19 age and older be vaccinated against shingles to prevent
20 shingles and shingles-related complications; and

21 WHEREAS, despite the recommendations of United States
22 centers for disease control and prevention officials and
23 other experts that all healthy adults be vaccinated against
24 shingles, only thirty percent of eligible adults over sixty
25 years of age had received the shingles vaccine as of 2015;

1 and

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

6 WHEREAS, the national academy of medicine, formerly
7 known as the institute of medicine, has stated that one of
8 the six causes of excess costs in the United States health
9 care system is missed prevention opportunities; and

10 WHEREAS, millions of American adults go without routine
11 and recommended vaccinations because the medical system is
12 not set up to ensure that adults receive regular preventive
13 health care; and

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

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that pharmacists
22 and all health care providers be requested to increase public
23 awareness for the importance of adults receiving vaccines
24 against shingles and to promote outreach and education
25 efforts concerning adult vaccination; and

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

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
8 requested to undertake a study to examine the barriers to
9 shingles vaccination uptake, as well as any potential actions
10 that could increase shingles vaccination rates; and

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

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
18 requested to develop a state adult immunization plan, modeled
19 on the national adult immunization plan in collaboration with
20 government and nongovernment stakeholders in New Mexico, that
21 aims to increase adult immunization rates in the state for
22 all vaccines recommended by the federal centers for disease
23 control and prevention and the advisory committee on
24 immunization; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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transmitted to the secretary of health. _____