



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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*Introduced by: Frizzell*

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1           A HOUSE RESOLUTION urging all Hoosiers to recognize  
2           August as "Shingles Awareness and Improvement Month".

3           *Whereas, Herpes zoster (shingles) is a disease caused by the*  
4           *same virus that causes chickenpox; therefore, any individual*  
5           *who has contracted chickenpox is at risk to contract shingles*  
6           *(approximately 98 percent of all adults in the United States);*

7           *Whereas, Nearly one in three people in the United States will*  
8           *contract shingles in their lifetime, totaling an estimated 1*  
9           *million people annually;*

10          *Whereas, The risk of contracting shingles increases with*  
11          *age, with nearly half of those affected over 60 years of age and*  
12          *half of those who live until 85 years of age developing shingles;*

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1       *Whereas, Shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful*  
2 *rash that can be severe and may have other symptoms,*  
3 *including long-term nerve pain, fever, headache, chills, upset*  
4 *stomach, muscle weakness, skin infection, scarring, and*  
5 *decrease or loss of vision or hearing;*

6       *Whereas, As much as 20 percent of adults who have*  
7 *contracted shingles will develop postherpetic neuralgia, a*  
8 *debilitating complication that causes severe pain, which may*  
9 *interfere with sleep and recreational activities, and may be*  
10 *associated with clinical depression;*

11       *Whereas, Vaccines have reduced the burden of widespread*  
12 *and often fatal diseases, enabling individuals to lead longer*  
13 *and healthier lives while reducing health care costs;*

14       *Whereas, Although much attention has been paid to the*  
15 *importance of childhood vaccinations, there is a general lack*  
16 *of awareness of adult-recommended vaccines and a*  
17 *misconception that immunizations are unnecessary for healthy*  
18 *adults;*

19       *Whereas, The United States Centers for Disease Control and*  
20 *Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on*  
21 *Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that healthy adults*  
22 *50 years of age and older be vaccinated against shingles to*  
23 *prevent shingles and shingles-related complications;*

24       *Whereas, Despite the recommendations of CDC officials and*  
25 *other experts that all healthy adults be vaccinated against*  
26 *shingles, as of 2015, only 30 percent of eligible adults had*  
27 *received the shingles vaccine;*

28       *Whereas, The annual economic burden of shingles in*  
29 *American adults is estimated to be between \$782 million and \$5*  
30 *billion;*

31       *Whereas, The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has stated that one*  
32 *of the six causes of excessive costs in the United States*  
33 *healthcare system is missed prevention opportunities;*

34       *Whereas, Millions of American adults go without routine or*



1 *recommended vaccinations because the medical system is not*  
2 *set up to ensure that adults receive regular preventive*  
3 *healthcare; and*

4 *Whereas, As the month of August is observed as National*  
5 *Immunization Awareness Month, residents of Indiana should be*  
6 *encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider to ensure*  
7 *that they have been properly vaccinated against shingles*  
8 *according to current CDC and ACIP recommendations:*  
9 *Therefore,*

10 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*  
11 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

12 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
13 recognizes that August is designated as "Shingles Awareness  
14 and Improvement Month" in Indiana to increase public  
15 awareness of the importance of adults receiving vaccines  
16 against shingles and to promote outreach and education efforts  
17 concerning adult vaccination.

18 SECTION 2. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
19 urges the Indiana Department of Health to take appropriate  
20 action to promote "Shingles Awareness and Improvement  
21 Month", including urging healthcare practitioners to discuss  
22 vaccines for shingles with adult patients and adopting  
23 appropriate programs and initiatives to raise public awareness  
24 of the importance of adult vaccination.

25 SECTION 3. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
26 Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the  
27 Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Health.

