

2018 -- S 2885

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

Introduced By: Senators Lombardi, Nesselbush, Lombardo, Ciccone, and Gallo

Date Introduced: May 15, 2018

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

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 contract 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 Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
11 hereby proclaims the Month of May to be "Shingles Awareness and Improvement Month" in the
12 State of Rhode Island in order to increase public awareness of the importance of adults receiving
13 vaccines against shingles, and to promote outreach and education efforts concerning adult
14 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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