SLS 18RS-1182 ORIGINAL

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

BY SENATOR MILLS

1

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Designates July 2018 as Shingles Awareness and Improvement Month in Louisiana.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To designate July 2018 as "Shingles Awareness and Improvement Month" in Louisiana to
3	increase public awareness of the importance of adults receiving vaccines against
4	shingles, and to promote outreach and education efforts concerning adult vaccines.
5	WHEREAS, herpes zoster, commonly known as shingles, is a disease caused by the
6	same virus that causes chicken pox; therefore, any individual who has contracted chicken
7	pox is at risk for shingles, this includes approximately ninety-eight percent of adults in the
8	United States; and
9	WHEREAS, nearly one in three people in the United States will contract shingles in
10	their lifetime, corresponding to an estimated one million people annually; and
11	WHEREAS, the risk of shingles increases with age, with nearly half of those affected
12	over sixty years of age and fifty percent of people living to age eighty-five will develop
13	shingles; and
14	WHEREAS, shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash that can be severe,
15	along with other symptoms including long-term nerve pain, fever, headache, chills, upset
16	stomach, muscle weakness, skin infection, scarring, and decrease or loss of vision or
17	hearing; and
18	WHEREAS, as many as twenty percent of adults who contract shingles develop

1	postherpetic neuralgia, a debilitating complication of shingles that causes severe pain that
2	may interfere with sleep and recreational activities, and can be associated with clinical
3	depression; and
4	WHEREAS, vaccines have reduced the burden of widespread and often fatal
5	diseases, enabling individuals to lead longer and healthier lives while reducing healthcare
6	costs; and
7	WHEREAS, although much attention has been paid to the importance of childhood
8	vaccinations, there is a general lack of awareness of adult-recommended vaccines, and a
9	misperception that immunizations are unnecessary for healthy adults; and
10	WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
11	and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that healthy
12	adults fifty years and older be vaccinated against shingles to prevent the disease and
13	shingles-related complications; and
14	WHEREAS, despite the recommendations of CDC officials and other experts that
15	all healthy adults be vaccinated against shingles, as of 2015 only thirty percent of eligible
16	adults had received the shingles vaccine; and
17	WHEREAS, the annual economic burden of shingles in American adults is estimated
18	to be between seven hundred and eighty-two million dollars and five billion dollars; and
19	WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine has stated that one of the six causes of excess
20	costs in the United States healthcare system is missed prevention opportunities; and
21	WHEREAS, millions of American adults go without routine and recommended
22	vaccinations because our medical system is not set up to ensure that adults receive regular
23	preventive healthcare; and
24	WHEREAS, with the designation of July 2018 as "Shingles Awareness and
25	Improvement Month", residents of Louisiana are encouraged to speak with their healthcare
26	provider to ensure that they have been properly vaccinated against shingles in accordance
27	with current CDC and ACIP recommendations.
28	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
29	designate July 2018 as "Shingles Awareness and Improvement Month" in Louisiana to
30	increase public awareness of the importance of adults receiving vaccines against shingles,

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and to promote outreach and education efforts concerning adult vaccines, generally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the

Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST SCR 57 Original 2018 Regular Session

Mills

Designates July 2018 as Shingles Awareness and Improvement Month in Louisiana.