



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### 1 **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SHINGLES AWARENESS AND IMPROVEMENT**

2 **WHEREAS**, herpes zoster (shingles) is a disease caused by the same virus (zoster) that causes  
3 chickenpox; therefore, any individual who has contracted chickenpox is at risk for shingles  
4 (approximately 98% of U.S. adults); and

5 **WHEREAS**, nearly 1 in 3 people in the U.S. will contract shingles in their lifetime, corresponding to  
6 an estimated 1 million people annually; and

7 **WHEREAS**, risk of shingles increases with age, with nearly half of those affected are over 60 years  
8 and half of people living until 85 years of age will develop shingles; and

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

12 **WHEREAS**, as much as 20% of adults who have contracted shingles will develop postherpetic  
13 neuralgia, a debilitating complication of shingles that causes severe pain, that may interfere with  
14 sleep and recreational activities, and be associated with clinical depression; and

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

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

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

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

26 **WHEREAS**, the annual economic burden of shingles in American adults is estimated to be between  
27 \$782 million and \$5.0 billion; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has stated that one of the six causes of excess costs in the  
29 U.S. healthcare system is missed prevention opportunities; and



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

30 **WHEREAS**, millions of American adults go without routine and recommended vaccinations because  
31 our medical system is not set up to ensure that adults receive regular preventive healthcare.

32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA)  
33 hereby recognizes the importance and awareness of Shingles disease.

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA supports increased public awareness of the importance of  
35 adults receiving vaccines against shingles, and supports outreach and education efforts concerning  
36 adult vaccination.

ADOPTED, this day, the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, 2018.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Governor Matt Michels (R – South Dakota),  
Lt. Governor Mike Parson (R – Missouri)