

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 61

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

Fred Luna

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF END-STAGE RENAL DISEASE
AND KIDNEY DIALYSIS TREATMENT BY THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, end-stage renal disease, or kidney failure, is
growing at the rate of six percent per year; and

WHEREAS, this disease either kills its victims or they
eventually join those fortunate persons who receive
successful kidney transplants; and

WHEREAS, the only other hope patients have is kidney
dialysis, a process currently keeping one thousand six
hundred New Mexicans alive; and

WHEREAS, two hundred seventy-four dialysis patients are
now candidates for transplants; and

WHEREAS, kidney dialysis is usually necessary two or
three times each week for each patient, taking several hours

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1 for the process in addition to travel time; and

2 WHEREAS, such a treatment regimen means that many
3 dialysis patients do not have the physical stamina to work
4 and contribute to their family's income; and

5 WHEREAS, many dialysis patients live a considerable
6 distance from New Mexico's twenty-six dialysis centers,
7 making transportation issues a considerable burden; and

8 WHEREAS, more than a dozen of these transplant patients
9 live without a telephone or adequate communication technology
10 necessary to learn of possible life-saving transplant
11 opportunities; and

12 WHEREAS, the financial burdens of such a chronic disease
13 quickly drain a family's resources; and

14 WHEREAS, many dialysis patients are without health
15 insurance, making a serious problem potentially tragic; and

16 WHEREAS, current medical technology could return many of
17 these New Mexicans to productive lives if additional
18 resources were available; and

19 WHEREAS, many patients came to dialysis after ignoring
20 early warning signs about their health, including symptoms of
21 diabetes, a disease having a disproportionately high impact
22 on the Native American populations;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the interim legislative health and
25 human services committee be requested to study the various
aspects of end-stage renal disease, kidney dialysis and all
issues relevant to the New Mexicans suffering from this

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1 potentially fatal condition; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include
3 consideration of kidney disease patients' limited resources
4 and extra financial burdens, including access to
5 communication and transportation to distant clinics and the
6 availability of insurance to defray the cost of life-saving
7 prescription drugs; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health,
9 the human services department, the New Mexico office of
10 Indian affairs, the health sciences center of the university
11 of New Mexico and other appropriate state agencies cooperate
12 in the study of end-stage renal disease patients' needs; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee make its
14 recommendations to the first session of the forty-fifth
15 legislature; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 sent to the secretary of health, the secretary of human
18 services, the vice president for health sciences at the
19 university of New Mexico, the executive director of the New
20 Mexico office of Indian affairs and the interim legislative
21 health and human services committee.