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SENATE MEMORIAL 6

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

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane Garcia

A MEMORIAL

SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FEDERAL RYAN WHITE
COMPREHENSIVE AIDS RESOURCES EMERGENCY ACT OF 1990.

WHEREAS, the incidence rate of new acquired immune
deficiency syndrome (AIDS) cases among Latino Americans is
four times that of non-Latino Americans; and

WHEREAS, Latinos comprised twenty percent of new AIDS
cases in 1998, although Latinos make up only eleven percent
of the United States population; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of human immunodeficiency virus
(HIV) is now growing more rapidly among women than among men,
with Latinas compromising twenty-one percent of new cases in
1998; and

WHEREAS, AIDS is increasing rapidly among young people,
with one-fourth of all new HIV infections in the United
States occurring in people under the age of twenty-two; and

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1 WHEREAS, large numbers of children will confront the
2 harsh reality of becoming AIDS orphans, with thirty thousand
3 children in New York City alone projected to lose their
4 mothers to AIDS deaths by 2001; and

5 WHEREAS, although AIDS deaths have been declining for
6 several years, largely due to new effective drug therapies,
7 the rate of decline among Latinos has been slower; and

8 WHEREAS, vast numbers of Latinos lack access to
9 effective drug therapies, as sixty-three percent of poor and
10 near-poor Latino children and ninety-five percent of poor and
11 near-poor Latino adults lack medical insurance, which are
12 much higher percentages than for the population as a whole;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the risk factors among Latino subgroups vary
15 considerably by geography, national origin and tradition,
16 making it imperative that diverse and culturally sensitive
17 prevention, treatment and community outreach programs be
18 tailored to particular target populations; and

19 WHEREAS, the greatest risk to Latinas now occurs through
20 heterosexual contact; and

21 WHEREAS, the recent life-prolonging and life-enhancing
22 advances in HIV drug therapy save money for the health care
23 system as a whole by keeping HIV patients productive longer
24 and preventing costly hospitalizations and nursing home
25 admissions, but paying for the needed drug therapy is beyond
the financial reach of vast numbers of persons with HIV; and

 WHEREAS, nationally, the state AIDS drug assistance

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1 programs have filled gaps in drug coverage by providing HIV
2 drugs to over five hundred thousand persons not eligible for
3 medicaid who lack insurance or any other payment source for
4 medication; and

5 WHEREAS, growing numbers of persons are becoming
6 eligible for drug assistance programs and are seeking
7 clinical treatment due to recent HIV drug therapy advances;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources
10 Emergency Act of 1990, which congress passed by wide,
11 bipartisan margins in 1990 following the death of teenager
12 Ryan White, will expire unless it is reauthorized; and

13 WHEREAS, the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources
14 Emergency Act of 1990 has supplied one billion four million
15 dollars (\$1,004,000,000) in critically needed federal funds
16 to help cities and states provide medical care, prescription
17 drugs, transportation, counseling and home and hospice care
18 to patients suffering with AIDS; and

19 WHEREAS, unmet medical needs of HIV patients, including
20 Latinos, continue to be significant; and

21 WHEREAS, the national association of Latino elected and
22 appointed officials (NALEO) adopted at its October 1999
23 policy institute a resolution calling for state legislative
24 support of congressional action to continue the Ryan White
25 Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990 funding;
and

WHEREAS, NALEO also recommended increased state funding

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1 for HIV and AIDS programs;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
4 delegation be requested to support the continued and
5 increased funding under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS
6 Resources Emergency Act of 1990; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislature pass
8 special increased funding for HIV and AIDS treatment and
9 prevention programs; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 sent to the members of New Mexico's congressional delegation.

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