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SENATE MEMORIAL 16

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Roman M. Maes III

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AND ENDORSING THE NATIONAL PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL HEART FAILURE AWARENESS WEEK.

WHEREAS, congestive heart failure is a major United States public health problem that impacts five million Americans or one and one-half percent of the United States population; and

WHEREAS, each year there are five hundred fifty thousand new cases of congestive heart failure diagnosed, with two hundred thousand deaths and one million hospitalizations per year due to the disease; and

WHEREAS, congestive heart failure is the leading cause of hospitalization in patients over the age of sixty-five; and

WHEREAS, congestive heart failure patients with the most severe symptoms have an approximately fifty percent one-year

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1 survival rate, and one-half of patients with even mild disease
2 die within five years; and

3 WHEREAS, the vast majority of patients are not diagnosed
4 until late in the course of disease; and

5 WHEREAS, a conservative estimate of annual United States
6 health expenditures for congestive health failure is in excess
7 of ten billion dollars (\$10,000,000,000), with the largest
8 portion, eight billion dollars (\$8,000,000,000), of this
9 expenditure for the cost of hospitalizations; and

10 WHEREAS, although current treatment guidelines recommend
11 that approximately eighty percent of heart failure patients
12 receive ACE inhibitors in combination with beta blockers to
13 extend life and reduce costly hospitalizations, only forty-five
14 percent of patients are treated with ACE inhibitors and twenty
15 percent of patients receive beta blockers; and

16 WHEREAS, the primary goals of "National Heart Failure
17 Awareness Week" are: (1) to promote research related to all
18 aspects of heart failure and provide a forum for presentation
19 of that research; (2) to educate heart failure caregivers and
20 patients through programs, publications, and other media
21 allowing for more effective treatment and diagnosis of heart
22 failure; and (3) to enhance the quality and duration of life
23 for those with heart failure;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
25 OF NEW MEXICO that the national proclamation of National Heart

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1 Failure Awareness Week be endorsed; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the treatment guidelines for
3 congestive heart failure published by the heart failure society
4 of America, incorporated, be transmitted by the secretary of
5 health to the appropriate health care professionals in the
6 state while urging their adoption of these guidelines in their
7 practice; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that physicians and health care
9 payers be encouraged to administer and provide reimbursement
10 for echocardiograms to all patients over fifty years of age
11 with a history of heart disease and begin appropriate treatment
12 as early as possible; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that physicians and health care
14 payers be encouraged to prescribe or provide reimbursement for
15 standard of care for congestive heart failure, including the
16 federal food and drug administration approved beta blockers and
17 ACE inhibitors, as well as other therapies that have been shown
18 to reduce the mortality and morbidity associated with
19 congestive heart failure; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate of the state of New
21 Mexico endorse the inclusion of the latest treatment advances
22 for congestive heart failure, including ACE-inhibitor and beta-
23 blocker therapies, in the curriculum of the university of New
24 Mexico medical school; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the secretary of health.

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