

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 31

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
CANCER RESEARCH AND TREATMENT CENTER.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature established the university of New Mexico school of medicine in 1964 to provide critically needed health care services and to improve the lives of New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, in order to best serve the underserved multiethnic populations of New Mexico and to address the significant cancer health disparities in the state and region, the New Mexico legislature established the university of New Mexico cancer research and treatment center at the university of New Mexico school of medicine on April 8, 1971 as New Mexico's official cancer center; and

WHEREAS, from 1986 to 2005, the New Mexico legislature

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1 passed several laws and acts that have provided significant
2 recurring and nonrecurring funds to provide for the development
3 of the center's programs in cancer research, statewide outreach
4 for cancer education, screening, prevention and treatment, for
5 the recruitment of cancer scientists and physicians, for
6 equipment and for the construction of research and treatment
7 facilities; and

8 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico cancer research and
9 treatment center is the state's largest team of cancer
10 specialists, with sixty-two cancer physicians and ninety
11 research scientists dedicated to discovering the causes of
12 cancer and preventing and treating cancer in all New Mexicans;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the physicians and research scientists provide
15 care to over three thousand newly diagnosed cancer patients
16 annually, over fifty percent of whom are ethnic minorities
17 representing over forty percent of the adults and over ninety
18 percent of the New Mexican children diagnosed with cancer each
19 year; and

20 WHEREAS, the goals of the university of New Mexico cancer
21 research and treatment center, reflective of the needs of the
22 state, are to:

23 A. conduct outstanding cancer research that builds
24 on unique institutional and regional scientific strengths and
25 collaboration;

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1 B. reduce cancer incidence and mortality by
2 discovering the genetic, environmental, social and behavioral
3 factors that contribute to the distinct cancer patterns in the
4 multiethnic populations of New Mexico;

5 C. reduce cancer health disparities in the
6 underserved populations of New Mexico through collaborative
7 community networks with the department of health; New Mexico's
8 pueblos, tribes and American Indian nations; the Indian health
9 service and local communities by developing culturally
10 appropriate cancer education, screening and prevention
11 programs; and

12 D. provide outstanding cancer treatment for all New
13 Mexicans by improving access to quality cancer care and
14 innovative therapies through development of programs at the
15 university of New Mexico and formal affiliations and
16 partnerships statewide with community cancer care providers and
17 health systems; and

18 WHEREAS, in September 2005, the national cancer institute
19 designated the university of New Mexico cancer research and
20 treatment center as the nation's newest national cancer
21 institute-designated cancer center, joining the ranks of the
22 sixty-one best cancer treatment and research centers in the
23 United States and providing increased federal funding to New
24 Mexico for cancer programs, ensuring that all New Mexicans can
25 access state-of-the-art treatment and benefit from the fruits

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1 of cancer research here in their home state;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the university of New Mexico cancer
4 research and treatment center be commended on receiving the
5 national cancer institute's designation as a regional
6 comprehensive cancer center; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 sent to the board of regents of the university of New Mexico
9 and the director of the national cancer institute.