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HOUSE MEMORIAL 36

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL BUREAU OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE NEW MEXICO CANCER CARE  
ALLIANCE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO RECOMMEND WAYS TO EXPAND  
ACCESS TO CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS TO ALL PARTS OF THE STATE.

WHEREAS, approximately one million five hundred thousand  
new cancer cases were diagnosed in the United States in 2008,  
including eight thousand two hundred sixty new cases in New  
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, over five hundred sixty-five thousand Americans  
die of cancer each year, including three thousand three hundred  
ten New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, cancer is the second most common cause of death  
in the United States, exceeded only by heart disease; and

WHEREAS, all aspects of cancer treatment should be

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1 available to all New Mexicans; and

2 WHEREAS, for patients for whom standard cancer treatments  
3 are no longer effective, the best cancer therapies offered  
4 through clinical research must be accessible to New Mexico  
5 patients; and

6 WHEREAS, engaging in a clinical trial system that allows  
7 patients to remain in their homes and receive care from a  
8 familiar physician is cost-effective and easy on the patient;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, cancer clinical trials are not available in many  
11 rural areas of the state;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the chronic  
14 disease prevention and control bureau of the department of  
15 health and the New Mexico cancer care alliance be requested to  
16 convene a working group; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include  
18 representatives of the chronic disease prevention and control  
19 bureau of the department of health, the medical assistance  
20 division of the human services department, the New Mexico  
21 cancer care alliance, the rural issues workgroup of the  
22 university of New Mexico cancer center and the New Mexico  
23 cancer council, a representative from an insurance health plan,  
24 at least three medical oncologists who participate in clinical  
25 trials, a rural practitioner and a primary care physician; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group identify  
2 gaps in current patient access to cancer clinical trials,  
3 identify and investigate methods to expand cancer clinical  
4 trials to areas of the state where they are currently  
5 unavailable and identify potential funding sources for  
6 expansion of services; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group present its  
8 recommendations to the legislative health and human services  
9 committee by October 2010; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of human  
12 services and the president of the New Mexico cancer care  
13 alliance.

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