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A MEMORIAL

CELEBRATING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH OF DIMES; DECLARING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2013, "MARCH OF DIMES DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes has dedicated seventy-five years to helping pregnant women reach full term and deliver healthy babies; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes helps moms have healthy babies through the contribution of resources for research and medical breakthroughs and the provision of education, outreach and vaccines; and

WHEREAS, more than four million babies are born in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes facilitates preventive interventions to effectively prevent premature birth, which affects five hundred thousand families each year; and

WHEREAS, birth defects are the leading cause of infant death and a major cause of pediatric hospitalization in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, birth defects account for twenty-six percent of infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, each year in New Mexico, approximately six hundred infants, or about one infant out of every forty-five infants born, are born with a major birth defect and another

1 thirty to forty infants are born with congenital hearing
2 loss; and

3 WHEREAS, the incidence of cleft lip and cleft palate in
4 New Mexico is rapidly increasing; and

5 WHEREAS, babies born with birth defects have a greater
6 chance of illness and long-term disability than babies
7 without birth defects, and they often require additional
8 health care and other services to support their growth and
9 development; and

10 WHEREAS, since 2000, birth defects have been a
11 reportable condition in New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes helped establish the
13 New Mexico birth defects registry, a birth defects
14 surveillance system enacted in 2012 and maintained by the
15 family health bureau of the department of health; and

16 WHEREAS, having a birth defects surveillance system has
17 enabled the state to:

18 A. monitor the prevalence of birth defects by
19 identifying clusters of occurrences that should be
20 investigated;

21 B. focus on and promote prevention activities;

22 C. assess the impact of screening and prevention
23 practices; and

24 D. link children to necessary services, such as
25 case management for those with complex medical needs, and

1 health care and early intervention services to maximize
2 children's development potential; and

3 WHEREAS, having this system in place has raised
4 awareness of the importance of a birth defects surveillance
5 system; and

6 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is an active member of the
7 state's infant mortality team, which pulls together all state
8 agencies to address the health and well-being of mothers and
9 babies in New Mexico;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the March of Dime's
12 seventy-five years of service to improve prenatal and
13 postnatal health care through research, vaccines, medical
14 breakthroughs, education and outreach; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wednesday, January 30, 2013,
16 be declared "March of Dimes Day" in the senate; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the secretary of health and the state director
19 of program services and government affairs for the March of
20 Dimes.
