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HOUSE MEMORIAL 20

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Gail Chasey

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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1 affects five hundred thousand families each year; and

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

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

7 WHEREAS, each year in New Mexico, approximately six  
8 hundred infants, or about one infant out of every forty-five  
9 infants born, are born with a major birth defect and another  
10 thirty to forty infants are born with congenital hearing loss;  
11 and

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

14 WHEREAS, babies born with birth defects have a greater  
15 chance of illness and long-term disability than babies without  
16 birth defects, and they often require additional health care  
17 and other services to support their growth and development; and

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

20 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes helped establish the New  
21 Mexico birth defects registry, a birth defects surveillance  
22 system enacted in 2012 and maintained by the family health  
23 bureau of the department of health; and

24 WHEREAS, having a birth defects surveillance system has  
25 enabled the state to:

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1           A. monitor the prevalence of birth defects by  
2 identifying clusters of occurrences that should be  
3 investigated;

4           B. focus on and promote prevention activities;

5           C. assess the impact of screening and prevention  
6 practices; and

7           D. link children to necessary services, such as  
8 case management for those with complex medical needs, and  
9 health care and early intervention services to maximize  
10 children's development potential; and

11           WHEREAS, having this system in place has raised awareness  
12 of the importance of a birth defects surveillance system; and

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

17           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize  
19 the March of Dime's seventy-five years of service to improve  
20 prenatal and postnatal health care through research, vaccines,  
21 medical breakthroughs, education and outreach; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wednesday, January 30, 2013,  
23 be declared "March of Dimes Day" in the house of  
24 representatives; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the secretary of health and the state director  
2 of program services and government affairs for the March of  
3 Dimes.

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