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HOUSE MEMORIAL 42

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

INTRODUCED BY

Terry H. McMillan

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A LITERATURE SEARCH OF SCIENTIFIC STUDIES OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND PESTICIDE EXPOSURE AND TO SUPPORT FEDERAL LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE THE FEDERAL CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION TO GATHER DATA ON PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO STUDY THE HISTORIC USE OF AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a chronic and progressive neurological disease that is the result of the loss of dopamine-producing brain cells; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure, therapy or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS, it is unknown how many Americans, or how many New Mexicans, live with Parkinson's disease; and

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1 WHEREAS, the department of health must rely upon death
2 certificates to tabulate death rates due to Parkinson's
3 disease; and

4 WHEREAS, there is no other data source in New Mexico to
5 estimate the prevalence of Parkinson's disease; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico's Parkinson's disease-related death
7 rate is thirteen and four-tenths per one hundred thousand
8 population; and

9 WHEREAS, national legislation has been proposed to amend
10 the federal Public Health Service Act to provide for the
11 establishment of permanent national surveillance systems to
12 track the epidemiology of certain neurological diseases,
13 including Parkinson's disease, and to facilitate further
14 research on these diseases; and

15 WHEREAS, environmental exposure to pesticides has long
16 been suspected of playing a role in causing Parkinson's
17 disease; and

18 WHEREAS, occupational exposure to pesticides often occurs
19 in the case of agricultural workers in open fields and
20 greenhouses; and

21 WHEREAS, low-level chronic exposure of the general
22 population to pesticides occurs primarily through eating food
23 and drinking water contaminated with pesticide residues; and

24 WHEREAS, risk assessment of the impact of pesticides on
25 human health is not an easy or accurate process due to

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1 differences in duration and level of exposure; and

2 WHEREAS, southwestern New Mexico has a large agricultural
3 sector, and it is important that agricultural workers know
4 which pesticides they have been, and are being, exposed to; and

5 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of agriculture
6 regulates the agricultural use of pesticides;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
9 of health be requested to conduct a literature search of
10 scientific studies of Parkinson's disease and pesticide
11 exposure; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
13 requested to write New Mexico's congressional delegation in
14 support of national legislation to amend the Public Health
15 Service Act to provide for the establishment of permanent
16 national surveillance systems to track the epidemiology of
17 certain neurological diseases, including Parkinson's disease,
18 and to facilitate further research on these diseases; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
20 agriculture be requested to study the historic use of
21 agricultural pesticides in New Mexico and to provide its
22 findings to the department of health; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
24 agriculture and the department of health be requested to
25 present the results of their studies to the legislative health

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1 and human services committee by September 1, 2013; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the secretary of health, to the director of the
4 New Mexico department of agriculture and to the Parkinson's
5 action network.

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