

1 A MEMORIAL

2 URGING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT  
3 LEGISLATION TO COVER THE COST OF CORONARY CALCIUM SCANS IN  
4 MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PROGRAMS.

5  
6 WHEREAS, death from heart disease is the number one  
7 killer of men and women, killing more people than the top  
8 five cancers combined; and

9 WHEREAS, more than five hundred thousand men and women  
10 die suddenly from heart attacks each year; and

11 WHEREAS, many of these individuals have no symptoms  
12 prior to experiencing a heart attack; and

13 WHEREAS, a heart scan procedure, also known as a  
14 coronary calcium scan, has the potential of easy  
15 identification of people at high risk of a heart attack; and

16 WHEREAS, the test is a computerized scan, an imaging  
17 study that is brief, simple, painless and inexpensive when  
18 compared to many medical tests; and

19 WHEREAS, coronary artery disease occurs when plaques  
20 build up within the walls of arteries that encircle the  
21 heart, causing a narrowing of the arteries; and

22 WHEREAS, calcified plaque can mean the presence of  
23 coronary artery disease, which increases the risks of heart  
24 attacks; and

25 WHEREAS, the plaques are deposits in the arterial walls

1 made up of fat, cholesterol and calcium, and heart scans can  
2 detect the calcium in those plaques; and

3 WHEREAS, the amount of calcium in plaques can be used  
4 to calculate a score that, when combined with other health  
5 information, may help to determine a person's risk of  
6 coronary artery disease on heart attack, according to the  
7 Mayo clinic; and

8 WHEREAS, the New Mexico heart institute in Albuquerque  
9 has prevented thousands of men and women from unnecessarily  
10 dying of unrecognized heart disease in the last ten years by  
11 utilizing coronary calcium scans; and

12 WHEREAS, the coronary calcium scan has enabled some  
13 individuals with an abnormal heart scan to be immediately  
14 treated with inexpensive generic medications that stopped  
15 and reversed their unrecognized heart disease; and

16 WHEREAS, because health insurance does not cover the  
17 cost of this test, many men and women are not obtaining this  
18 simple diagnostic coronary calcium scan; and

19 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the cost of a  
20 coronary calcium scan to be covered by medicare and medicaid  
21 social health care programs; and

22 WHEREAS, most of the major hospitals in New Mexico  
23 already have machines that perform the coronary calcium  
24 scans; and

25 WHEREAS, because of a lack of funding, these coronary

1 calcium scan machines are underutilized;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that members of the United States  
4 congress be urged to support legislation to cover the cost  
5 of coronary calcium scans in medicare and medicaid social  
6 health care programs; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the members of the United States congress. \_\_\_\_\_ SM 86  
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