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SENATE MEMORIAL 22

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING 2020 THE "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE NURSE AND
MIDWIFE" AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF NURSES AND MIDWIVES ON
THE HEALTH CARE OF ALL NEW MEXICANS.

WHEREAS, the nursing profession has the largest group of
health care professionals in the United States and New Mexico
and is the most trusted profession in the country; and

WHEREAS, nurses provide care to patients from the
beginning to the end of life; and

WHEREAS, nurses practice in all health care settings
without bias regarding social status, ethnicity, diversity,
gender or religion of the patients in their care; and

WHEREAS, nurses are filling new roles and care innovations
to meet the ever-growing demand for health and health care
services; and

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1 WHEREAS, the history of nurse-midwifery in New Mexico is
2 part of the profession's earliest history in the United States;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, nurse-midwives responded to New Mexico's highest
5 maternal mortality rate in the United States in 1943 with the
6 founding of the Catholic clinic in Santa Fe; and

7 WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, a plan developed by Sister
8 Theophane for a school of nurse-midwifery was accepted by the
9 archbishop, the director of the national children's bureau in
10 Washington, D.C., and the New Mexico welfare and public health
11 department; and

12 WHEREAS, the earliest regulations governing the practice
13 of midwifery in New Mexico were promulgated by the state board
14 of public health on May 4, 1944; and

15 WHEREAS, the official manual for midwives published in
16 1955 assisted New Mexican midwives who had attended classes in
17 midwifery; and

18 WHEREAS, both licensed and certified nurse-midwives are
19 regulated by the department of health and have grown to be a
20 significant part of the health care workforce of the state; and

21 WHEREAS, in spite of the major roles nurses play in health
22 care delivery and community outreach, there remain
23 opportunities to increase understanding of the value of
24 nursing; and

25 WHEREAS, nurses look forward to working with partner

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1 organizations to communicate a contemporary and accurate view
2 of the nursing profession and the critical work nurses do; and

3 WHEREAS, the New Mexico nurses association joins the
4 American nurses association in recognizing the impact of the
5 nursing profession on health outcomes in New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, the world health assembly, the governing body of
7 the world health organization, declared 2020 to be the
8 international year of the nurse and midwife, in honor of
9 Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, on the two
10 hundredth anniversary of her birth; and

11 WHEREAS, the international year of the nurse and midwife
12 celebration offers a platform to recognize past and present
13 nurse leaders globally, raise the visibility of the nursing
14 profession in policy dialogue and invest in the development and
15 increased capacity of the nursing workforce;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
17 OF NEW MEXICO that 2020 be declared the "International Year of
18 the Nurse and Midwife" and that the impact of nurses and
19 midwives on the health care of all New Mexicans be recognized;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the secretary of health and the executive
23 director of the New Mexico nurses association.