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A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 21, 2023 "PUBLIC HEALTH DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play; and

WHEREAS, public health organizations shepherded New Mexicans through the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, including vaccine promotion and delivery that resulted in over seventy-five percent of New Mexicans being vaccinated against the coronavirus disease 2019; and

WHEREAS, place-based public and community health organizations play a critical role in identifying the needs and priorities of the communities most impacted by dire health inequities; and

WHEREAS, place-based public and community health organizations create, promote and carry out programs and strategies that connect New Mexicans to essential resources and are the backbone of New Mexico's public health infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico public health association was established in 1917; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico public health association is the state affiliate of the American public health association and

1 has built the capacity of New Mexico's public health workers
2 and advanced health equity in New Mexico for one hundred five
3 years; and

4 WHEREAS, the New Mexico public health association is
5 forging strong partnerships with community organizations to
6 center public health workforce development in partnerships
7 and paradigms that acknowledge and educate on the harmful
8 legacies of settler colonialism, genocide and racism and the
9 communities most impacted by health inequities; and

10 WHEREAS, the New Mexico public health association and
11 the New Mexico alliance of health councils have a close
12 ongoing partnership; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico's community health councils were
14 established under the auspices of the 1991 County Maternal
15 and Child Health Plan Act; and

16 WHEREAS, the County Maternal and Child Health Plan Act
17 was amended in 2007 to include community health councils
18 located in tribal communities; and

19 WHEREAS, the County Maternal and Child Health Plan Act
20 was repealed and, in 2019, the County and Tribal Health
21 Councils Act was passed to update roles and functions for
22 tribal and county health councils and the department of
23 health; and

24 WHEREAS, for thirty-one years, New Mexico's county and
25 tribal health councils have served the state with dedication

1 and distinction to improve the health of all New Mexicans;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, health councils continue to serve as the hub of
4 public health systems in counties and tribal communities and
5 produce assessments and plans that identify local health
6 strengths, needs, priorities and strategies; and

7 WHEREAS, community health councils have developed and
8 implemented programs and services to address critical health
9 needs and to increase access to essential services; and

10 WHEREAS, community health councils have worked with
11 communities to attract federal, state and private funding to
12 communities to support health programs and services; and

13 WHEREAS, community health councils continue to provide
14 accurate, up-to-date information on local health needs to
15 state agencies and nonprofit service providers; and

16 WHEREAS, community health councils have provided
17 planning and coordination of local health services that
18 result in reducing duplication and filling gaps in services;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the New Mexico alliance of health councils has
21 provided critical coordination, capacity building and
22 advocacy on behalf of tribal and county health councils; and

23 WHEREAS, the work and role of the New Mexico alliance of
24 health councils have allowed tribal and county health
25 councils to carry out high-quality assessments, programs and

1 services;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 21,
4 2023 be proclaimed "Public Health Day" in the house of
5 representatives; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico's public health
7 organizations, including the New Mexico public health
8 association and the New Mexico alliance of health councils
9 and its constituent county and tribal health councils, along
10 with critical community-based organizations, be recognized
11 and celebrated for their accomplishments and their combined
12 one hundred thirty-six years of service in improving
13 community well-being and advancing health equity among the
14 people of New Mexico; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of health for
17 appropriate distribution.

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