

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE AGING AND LONG-  
3 TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO COLLABORATE WITH THE NEW MEXICO  
4 CHAPTER OF THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AND ANY OTHER ENTITY  
5 DEEMED APPROPRIATE OR BENEFICIAL TO, USING THE BEST AVAILABLE  
6 EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH REGARDING BRAIN HEALTH, UPDATE AND  
7 INTEGRATE THAT RESEARCH INTO THOSE DEPARTMENTS' RESPECTIVE  
8 PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND CAMPAIGNS  
9 AND INTO THOSE DEPARTMENTS' RESPECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER  
10 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND CAMPAIGNS AND FURTHER  
11 REQUESTING THOSE DEPARTMENTS TO SEEK FEDERAL FUNDING AND  
12 RESOURCES FOR THE UPDATING AND INTEGRATION EFFORTS THROUGH  
13 THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION ON AGING'S ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE  
14 PROGRAMS INITIATIVE AND ANY OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS, FUNDS OR  
15 RESOURCES THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE.

16  
17 WHEREAS, according to the national institute on aging,  
18 Alzheimer's disease is a brain disorder that slowly destroys  
19 an individual's memory and thinking skills and, eventually,  
20 the individual's ability to carry out simple tasks, and  
21 Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia  
22 among older adults; and

23 WHEREAS, according to *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and*  
24 *Figures*, published by the Alzheimer's association, nearly  
25 seven million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease

1 and one in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's disease or  
2 another dementia, and together these dementias cause more  
3 deaths than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined; and

4 WHEREAS, that same publication indicated that in 2024,  
5 Alzheimer's disease and other dementias would likely cost the  
6 nation three hundred sixty billion dollars  
7 (\$360,000,000,000), and the costs could rise to one trillion  
8 dollars (\$1,000,000,000,000) by the year 2050; and

9 WHEREAS, according to the New Mexico chapter of the  
10 Alzheimer's association, more than forty-six thousand people  
11 in the state are living with Alzheimer's disease, and sixty-  
12 seven thousand caregivers dedicate a staggering one hundred  
13 eighteen million hours of unpaid care; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1960, Dr. Alois Alzheimer noticed changes in  
15 the brain tissue of a woman who died of an unusual mental  
16 illness, and upon examining her brain, Dr. Alzheimer found  
17 many abnormal clumps, now called amyloid plaques, and tangled  
18 bundles of fibers, now called neurofibrillary or tau tangles;  
19 and these plaques and tangles, along with the loss of  
20 connectors between neurons in the brain, are some of the main  
21 features of Alzheimer's disease; and

22 WHEREAS, an increased understanding of brain health  
23 derived from the best available evidence-based research  
24 related to cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease and other  
25 dementias is essential to increase the public's understanding

1 and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and  
2 the warning signs, risk reductions and early detection of  
3 such debilitating brain diseases and is equally essential to  
4 educate the public about the relationship between chronic  
5 diseases and Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; and

6 WHEREAS, there are significant challenges faced by  
7 caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other  
8 dementias, including obtaining access to resources that may  
9 be available to help support caregivers with these  
10 challenges; and

11 WHEREAS, health care providers can play a significant  
12 role in educating individuals about the risk factors and  
13 early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and  
14 other dementias; and

15 WHEREAS, it is essential to provide education and  
16 resources to the state's health care providers regarding the  
17 importance of validated assessment tools for detection and  
18 diagnosis of cognitive impairment and the value of employing  
19 those tools during an individual's medicare annual wellness  
20 visit, along with ensuring that health care providers  
21 understand the medicare care planning billing codes for  
22 individuals with cognitive impairment, the provision of  
23 effective care planning and available treatments; and

24 WHEREAS, health care providers will be better enabled to  
25 provide the best standard of care for individuals faced with

1 an Alzheimer's disease or other dementia diagnosis if the  
2 health care providers have access to the best evidence-based  
3 research on brain health and related diseases; and

4 WHEREAS, the federal administration on aging leads  
5 initiatives to support people living with Alzheimer's disease  
6 and related dementias and their caregivers, and the agency  
7 provides funding to states and community-based organizations  
8 through the Alzheimer's disease programs initiative; and

9 WHEREAS, the need for federal funds and resources is  
10 clear, and focused efforts to obtain those funds and  
11 resources for New Mexico could play a significant role in the  
12 state's ability to positively impact education, awareness and  
13 care for all New Mexico residents whose lives, or the lives  
14 of their loved ones, are touched by Alzheimer's disease or  
15 other dementias;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the  
18 department of health and the aging and long-term services  
19 department, in collaboration with the New Mexico chapter of  
20 the Alzheimer's association and any other entity deemed  
21 appropriate or beneficial, be requested to, using the best  
22 available evidence-based research regarding brain health,  
23 update and integrate that research into those departments'  
24 respective public health education and outreach programs and  
25 campaigns and into those departments' respective health care

1 provider education and outreach programs and campaigns; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to assist with the costs of  
3 updating and integrating public health outreach programs and  
4 campaigns, the department of health and the aging and long-  
5 term services department be requested to seek to obtain funds  
6 and resources from the federal administration on aging  
7 through the federal administration's Alzheimer's disease  
8 programs initiative and any other federal programs, funds or  
9 resources that may be available; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health and  
11 the aging and long-term services department be requested to  
12 work together to produce a report on the outcomes of the  
13 efforts to update and integrate evidence-based research and  
14 information regarding Alzheimer's disease for education and  
15 outreach programs and campaigns as requested in this 2025  
16 memorial and to provide that report to the New Mexico  
17 legislative council and the governor; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the  
20 secretary of aging and long-term services, the New Mexico  
21 chapter of the Alzheimer's association and the New Mexico  
22 legislative council.

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