SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 54

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE AGENCY ON AGING TO PARTNER WITH THE

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION, LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCIES AND PRIVATE

ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE AND EXPAND THE SAFE RETURN PROGRAM FOR

PERSONS WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS TO MORE

COMMUNITIES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, more than thirty-two thousand persons in New

Mexico are affected by Alzheimer's disease and related

dementias; and

WHEREAS, many persons with Alzheimer's disease and other

dementias have a tendency to wander and are unable to find

their ways home; and

WHEREAS, if not helped to return home, such persons face

imminent danger and may suffer physical and emotional harm; and

WHEREAS, safe return programs partner with local law

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1   enforcement, utility companies, municipal workers and others to

2   register persons suffering from some form of dementia who are

3   at risk of wandering; and

4   WHEREAS, safe return programs are being successfully

5   operated in several communities in New Mexico; and

6   WHEREAS, New Mexico's currently operating safe return

7   programs have registered almost two hundred fifty persons with

8   Alzheimer's disease and other dementias;

9   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

10   STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state agency on aging be requested

11   to partner with the Alzheimer's association, local public

12   agencies and private organizations to promote and expand the

13   safe return program to more communities in New Mexico; and

14   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

15   transmitted to the director of the state agency on aging.

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