

A MEMORIAL

CELEBRATING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH OF DIMES; DECLARING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2013, "MARCH OF DIMES DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes has dedicated seventy-five years to helping pregnant women reach full term and deliver healthy babies; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes helps moms have healthy babies through the contribution of resources for research and medical breakthroughs and the provision of education, outreach and vaccines; and

WHEREAS, more than four million babies are born in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes facilitates preventive interventions to effectively prevent premature birth, which affects five hundred thousand families each year; and

WHEREAS, birth defects are the leading cause of infant death and a major cause of pediatric hospitalization in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, birth defects account for twenty-six percent of infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, each year in New Mexico, approximately six hundred infants, or about one infant out of every forty-five infants born, are born with a major birth defect and another

thirty to forty infants are born with congenital hearing loss;
and

WHEREAS, the incidence of cleft lip and cleft palate in
New Mexico is rapidly increasing; and

WHEREAS, babies born with birth defects have a greater
chance of illness and long-term disability than babies without
birth defects, and they often require additional health care
and other services to support their growth and development;
and

WHEREAS, since 2000, birth defects have been a
reportable condition in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes helped establish the New
Mexico birth defects registry, a birth defects surveillance
system enacted in 2012 and maintained by the family health
bureau of the department of health; and

WHEREAS, having a birth defects surveillance system has
enabled the state to:

A. monitor the prevalence of birth defects by
identifying clusters of occurrences that should be
investigated;

B. focus on and promote prevention activities;

C. assess the impact of screening and prevention
practices; and

D. link children to necessary services, such as
case management for those with complex medical needs, and

health care and early intervention services to maximize children's development potential; and

WHEREAS, having this system in place has raised awareness of the importance of a birth defects surveillance system; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is an active member of the state's infant mortality team, which pulls together all state agencies to address the health and well-being of mothers and babies in New Mexico;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the March of Dime's seventy-five years of service to improve prenatal and postnatal health care through research, vaccines, medical breakthroughs, education and outreach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wednesday, January 30, 2013, be declared "March of Dimes Day" in the house of representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of health and the state director of program services and government affairs for the March of Dimes.