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A JOINT MEMORIAL

DECLARING MARCH 1, 2013 TO BE "HEALTH CARE ADVANCE DIRECTIVE DAY" AT THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, developments in health care technology make possible many alternatives for treating medical conditions and make possible the unnatural prolongation of life; and

WHEREAS, an adult should be spared unwanted health care procedures; and

WHEREAS, a competent adult should have the clear legal choice to accept or reject health care, even if rejecting health care will result in death sooner than death would be expected to occur through the provision of the rejected health care; and

WHEREAS, advance care planning is the practice of making explicit written instructions to caregivers, family and friends on measures for delivering health care and for preserving that adult's dignity in the event that the adult is unable, because of incapacity, to make those instructions known when needed at a later time; and

WHEREAS, advance care planning includes the use of advance health care directives, health care powers of attorney and medical orders for life-sustaining treatment that can be administered effectively within the health care system; and

WHEREAS, advance care planning provides support for

1 patients and their families making difficult life decisions;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, advance care planning ensures that the
4 patient's informed end-of-life health care choices are known,
5 documented and respected; and

6 WHEREAS, advance care planning provides competent adults
7 with a legal tool to designate a health care agent and express
8 preferences about health care options to go into effect only
9 after the adult loses the ability to make or communicate
10 health care decisions, including deeply personal decisions
11 about end-of-life care;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the right of each adult to expect
14 dignity and privacy be recognized; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the right of an adult to
16 refuse to be treated without the adult's consent be protected;
17 and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the right of competent
19 adults to make fully informed health care decisions expressed
20 contemporaneously or through advance health care directives be
21 recognized; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that March 1, 2013 be declared
23 "Health Care Advance Directive Day" at the New Mexico
24 legislature.