

HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE MEMORIAL 42

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A LITERATURE
SEARCH OF SCIENTIFIC STUDIES OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND
PESTICIDE EXPOSURE AND TO SUPPORT FEDERAL LEGISLATION THAT
WOULD AUTHORIZE THE FEDERAL CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND
PREVENTION TO GATHER DATA ON PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND REQUESTING
THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO STUDY THE HISTORIC
USE OF AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a chronic and progressive
neurological disease that is the result of the loss of
dopamine-producing brain cells; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure, therapy or drug to slow or halt
the progression of Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS, it is unknown how many Americans, or how many New
Mexicans, live with Parkinson's disease; and

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underscored material = new
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1 WHEREAS, the department of health must rely upon death
2 certificates to tabulate death rates due to Parkinson's
3 disease; and

4 WHEREAS, there is no other data source in New Mexico to
5 estimate the prevalence of Parkinson's disease; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico's Parkinson's disease-related death
7 rate is thirteen and four-tenths per one hundred thousand
8 population; and

9 WHEREAS, national legislation has been proposed to amend
10 the federal Public Health Service Act to provide for the
11 establishment of permanent national surveillance systems to
12 track the epidemiology of certain neurological diseases,
13 including Parkinson's disease, and to facilitate further
14 research on these diseases; and

15 WHEREAS, environmental exposure to pesticides has long
16 been suspected of playing a role in causing Parkinson's
17 disease; and

18 WHEREAS, occupational exposure to pesticides often occurs
19 in the case of agricultural workers in open fields and
20 greenhouses; and

21 WHEREAS, low-level chronic exposure of the general
22 population to pesticides occurs primarily through eating food
23 and drinking water contaminated with pesticide residues; and

24 WHEREAS, risk assessment of the impact of pesticides on
25 human health is not an easy or accurate process due to

1 differences in duration and level of exposure; and

2 WHEREAS, southwestern New Mexico has a large agricultural
3 sector, and it is important that agricultural workers know
4 which pesticides they have been, and are being, exposed to; and

5 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of agriculture
6 regulates the agricultural use of pesticides;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
9 department of agriculture be requested to study the historic
10 use of agricultural pesticides in New Mexico and to provide its
11 findings to the department of health; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
13 requested, upon review of the data submitted by the New Mexico
14 department of agriculture, and of the pertinent scientific
15 literature on the relationship of pesticide use and the
16 development of Parkinson's disease, to prepare a report
17 assessing the risk of pertinent populations of New Mexicans,
18 with recommendations as appropriate; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
20 agriculture and the department of health be requested to
21 present the results of their studies to the legislative health
22 and human services committee by September 1, 2013; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
24 requested to write New Mexico's congressional delegation in
25 support of national legislation to amend the Public Health

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1 Service Act to provide for the establishment of permanent
2 national surveillance systems to track the epidemiology of
3 certain neurological diseases, including Parkinson's disease,
4 and to facilitate further research on these diseases; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the secretary of health, to the director of the
7 New Mexico department of agriculture and to the Parkinson's
8 action network.

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