

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 16, 2017 "METASTATIC BREAST CANCER  
3 AWARENESS DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4  
5 WHEREAS, families across New Mexico are affected by a  
6 family member's diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer; and

7 WHEREAS, much of the talk around breast cancer focuses  
8 on early detection and routine diagnosis, and there has been  
9 tremendous progress in the last thirty years; and

10 WHEREAS, the story for advanced breast cancer is quite  
11 different, in that metastatic breast cancer patients continue  
12 to face many unique challenges, such as the emotional and  
13 physical demands of continual treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, currently no cure exists for metastatic breast  
15 cancer, and those with metastatic breast cancer will continue  
16 treatment indefinitely with the goal of extending the best  
17 quality of life possible; and

18 WHEREAS, more than one in eight women in the United  
19 States will be affected by invasive breast cancer in their  
20 lifetimes; and

21 WHEREAS, breast cancer can spread quickly and  
22 inexplicably, regardless of the treatment or preventive  
23 measures taken; and

24 WHEREAS, approximately six percent of newly diagnosed  
25 breast cancer cases are diagnosed as metastatic breast

1 cancer, with an estimated thirty percent of early-stage  
2 breast cancer cases becoming metastatic or recurrent advanced  
3 cases; and

4 WHEREAS, this devastating stage of breast cancer occurs  
5 when cancer spreads beyond the breast to other parts of the  
6 body, including the bones, lungs, liver and brain; and

7 WHEREAS, this devastating disease affects all races and  
8 socioeconomic classes, and though White women see the  
9 greatest incidence of breast cancer, the mortality rate for  
10 African American women, with breast cancer is higher than in  
11 White women and breast cancer is the leading cause of  
12 cancer-related death for Hispanic women; and

13 WHEREAS, any discussions of breast cancer should include  
14 the spectrum from screening through metastatic breast cancer;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the burdens that metastatic breast cancer place  
17 on patients, families, the health care system and the economy  
18 are large; and

19 WHEREAS, metastatic breast cancer cuts short the lives  
20 of too many women in New Mexico, leaving a lasting effect on  
21 their families; and

22 WHEREAS, while there have been treatment advances in  
23 metastatic breast cancer, many of those advances have  
24 benefited a small subset of patients with specific types of  
25 metastatic breast cancer; and

1           WHEREAS, while metastatic breast cancer remains  
2 incurable, there is reason to be hopeful, as extensive  
3 research efforts are under way to address this unmet need;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, the national institutes of health have a  
6 website, ClinicalTrials.gov, that is a searchable database  
7 and that provides patients, family members and the public  
8 with information about ongoing clinical research studies; and

9           WHEREAS, additional focus is needed on the personal and  
10 social burdens of metastatic breast cancer, the needs of  
11 patients and promising research efforts in the development of  
12 more effective treatments; and

13           WHEREAS, there is still more research to be done for  
14 metastatic breast cancer so that new and more effective  
15 treatments can be developed; and

16           WHEREAS, New Mexico will continue to push for critical  
17 research and advanced treatments for metastatic breast  
18 cancer; and

19           WHEREAS, individuals diagnosed with metastatic breast  
20 cancer can speak with their physicians to learn more about  
21 the disease and find support groups and services in their  
22 communities or online; and

23           WHEREAS, on this day, the people of New Mexico are asked  
24 to become informed about and aware of metastatic breast  
25 cancer;

1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 16,  
3 2017, be proclaimed "Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day"  
4 in the house of representatives; and

5           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the people of New Mexico be  
6 requested to participate in observation of "Metastatic Breast  
7 Cancer Awareness Day" to shed light on the devastation that  
8 metastatic breast cancer brings to communities throughout New  
9 Mexico.

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