

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE MARCH OF DIMES AND DECLARING FEBRUARY 16,  
3 2017, "MARCH OF DIMES DAY" IN THE SENATE.

4  
5 WHEREAS, the march of dimes has dedicated seventy-nine  
6 years to helping pregnant women reach full term and deliver  
7 healthy babies; and

8 WHEREAS, the march of dimes helps moms have healthy  
9 babies through the contribution of resources for research and  
10 medical breakthroughs and the provision of education,  
11 outreach and vaccines; and

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

14 WHEREAS, the march of dimes facilitates preventive  
15 interventions to effectively prevent premature birth, which  
16 affects five hundred thousand families each year; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, each year in New Mexico, approximately six  
23 hundred infants, or about one infant out of every forty-five  
24 infants, are born with a major birth defect and another  
25 thirty to forty infants are born with congenital hearing

1 loss; and

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

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

9 WHEREAS, the march of dimes helped establish the New  
10 Mexico birth defects registry, a birth defects surveillance  
11 system enacted in 2012 and maintained by the family health  
12 bureau of the department of health; and

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

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

18 B. focus on and promote prevention activities;

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

21 D. link children to necessary services, such as  
22 case management for those with complex medical needs and  
23 health care and early intervention services to maximize  
24 children's development potential; and

25 WHEREAS, having this system in place has raised

1 awareness of the importance of a birth defects surveillance  
2 system; and

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

7 WHEREAS, in 2016, the New Mexico preterm birth rate of  
8 nine and five-tenths percent increased by three-tenths  
9 percent;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the march of dime's  
12 seventy-nine years of service to improve prenatal and  
13 postnatal health care through research, vaccines, medical  
14 breakthroughs, education and outreach; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 16, 2017, be  
16 declared "March of Dimes Day" in the senate; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the secretary of health and the state director  
19 of program services and government affairs for the march of  
20 dimes.

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