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SENATE MEMORIAL 63

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

A MEMORIAL

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

WHEREAS, the march of dimes has dedicated seventy-nine 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

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

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

6 WHEREAS, each year in New Mexico, approximately six
7 hundred infants, or about one infant out of every forty-five
8 infants, are born with a major birth defect and another thirty
9 to forty infants are born with congenital hearing loss; and

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

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

16 WHEREAS, the march of dimes helped establish the New
17 Mexico birth defects registry, a birth defects surveillance
18 system enacted in 2012 and maintained by the family health
19 bureau of the department of health; and

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

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

25 B. focus on and promote prevention activities;

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

3 D. link children to necessary services, such as
4 case management for those with complex medical needs and health
5 care and early intervention services to maximize children's
6 development potential; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of health and the state director
24 of program services and government affairs for the march of
25 dimes.

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