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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO STUDY FUNDING LEVELS AND NEW SOURCES OF FUNDING TO SUPPORT RESEARCH ON CAVERNOUS ANGIOMA, A DISEASE THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTS HISPANIC NEW MEXICANS.

WHEREAS, cavernous angioma is a devastating blood vessel disease that has enormous consequences for those affected and their families; and

WHEREAS, cavernous angiomas are formations in the brain that cannot be detected easily except through very specific medical scans; and

WHEREAS, cavernous angiomas appear to be passed from one generation to the next; and

WHEREAS, those with a cavernous angioma should not take blood thinners or aspirin, but are rarely aware that they have the disease; and

WHEREAS, medications are in clinical trials that may mitigate the effects of the illness for those who are diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, cavernous angiomas are more common in New Mexico than elsewhere because of a genetic mutation passed down from the earliest Hispanic settlers; and

WHEREAS, a person with a cavernous angioma may go

1 undiagnosed until sudden death or stroke;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health and the
4 board of regents of the university of New Mexico be requested
5 to appoint a committee to study funding levels and new
6 sources of funding to support research on cavernous angioma;
7 and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be requested
9 to devise educational campaigns that use the resources
10 available to government agencies and hospitals to inform New
11 Mexico residents of the dangers and warning signs of
12 cavernous angioma; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee discuss with
14 New Mexico health care providers the most appropriate
15 international statistical classification of diseases codes to
16 improve tracking of the illness in New Mexico; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee request New
18 Mexico primary health care providers to report to the
19 department of health the number of patients diagnosed with
20 cerebral cavernous malformation in the provider's caseload by
21 December 31, 2019; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee encourage
23 health care providers to recommend genetic testing for those
24 most at risk for the illness by virtue of family history or
25 symptoms; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee request that
2 the medical assistance division of the human services
3 department determine if reimbursement through medicaid is
4 available for genetic testing of those Hispanic New Mexico
5 residents at risk for the illness; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its
7 findings and its educational efforts to the interim
8 legislative health and human services committee by November
9 1, 2020; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the secretary of health and the president of
12 the board of regents of the university of New Mexico. _____

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