

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 14

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

M MICHAEL OLGUIN

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE MONTH OF JUNE BE DESIGNATED AS HEPATITIS
AWARENESS MONTH AND URGING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE VIRUS DURING
HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH.

WHEREAS, chronic viral hepatitis currently infects four
million five hundred thousand Americans; and

WHEREAS, the national institute of health has determined
chronic viral hepatitis to be a major public health issue, and
it will be conducting a consensus conference addressing the
detection and treatment of the hepatitis C virus; and

WHEREAS, there are one hundred fifty thousand new cases of
chronic viral hepatitis each year in the United States despite
the fact that the virus is largely unreported and
underdiagnosed; and

Underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

Underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, the hepatitis C virus is the cause of eight
2 thousand to ten thousand preventable deaths per year in the
3 United States; and

4 WHEREAS, consequences of the hepatitis C virus cost about
5 seven million three hundred thousand dollars (\$7,300,000) per
6 one hundred thousand patients because individuals infected with
7 the virus remain largely asymptomatic until the virus causes
8 irreversible liver damage; and

9 WHEREAS, eighty-five percent of all Americans infected with
10 the hepatitis C virus become chronically infected and develop
11 cirrhosis and liver cancer; and

12 WHEREAS, the American liver foundation estimates that in
13 the 1980s blood transfusions caused transmission of the human
14 immunodeficiency virus and hepatitis C viruses with an estimated
15 three hundred thousand people infected with the hepatitis C
16 virus alone because of the lack of adequate screening of the
17 blood supply prior to 1990; and

18 WHEREAS, risk factors for the hepatitis C virus include
19 popular practices such as body piercing and tattooing, and other
20 means of blood transmission, including health care workers who
21 are exposed to needle sticks, and intravenous drug users, but in
22 more than forty percent of infected patients, it is unknown how
23 the virus occurred; and

24 WHEREAS, there is a food and drug administration-approved
25 treatment for the hepatitis C virus; and

State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 11, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your VOTERS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, to whom has
been referred

HOUSE MEMORIAL 14

has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward C. Sandoval, Chairman

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

HVEC/HM 14

Page 5

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 10 For 0 Against

Yes: 10

Excused: Nicely, Sanchez

Absent: None

M \HMD14

Underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete