HOUSE MEMORIAL 55

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Tara L. Lujan and Patricia A. Lundstrom and Rebecca Dow

and Joseph Franklin Hernandez and Martha Garcia

A MEMORIAL

ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPACT OF RADIATION EXPOSURE ON NEW MEXICO
RESIDENTS; RECOGNIZING THE EXPANSION OF THE FEDERAL RADIATION
EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT; URGING STATEWIDE OUTREACH AND
ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE PERSONS APPLYING FOR
COMPENSATION PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER 31, 2027 DEADLINE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to many communities that were
exposed to radiation as a result of the trinity nuclear test
and decades of uranium mining, milling and transport activities
that supported national defense and energy security interests;
and

WHEREAS, for generations, New Mexico downwinders, uranium
workers and their families have experienced elevated rates of
cancer and other serious health impacts without formal
recognition or compensation; and

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1   WHEREAS, congress expanded the federal Radiation Exposure

2   Compensation Act to include New Mexico downwinders and post-

3   1971 uranium workers, providing a one-time payment of one

4   hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) to eligible persons or

5   their survivors; and

6   WHEREAS, the expanded eligibility under the federal

7   Radiation Exposure Compensation Act requires all claims to be

8   filed no later than December 31, 2027; and

9   WHEREAS, many eligible New Mexico residents, particularly

10   elders, rural residents, tribal members and families of

11   deceased persons, may be unaware of their eligibility,

12   uncertain of how to document presence or illness or unable to

13   navigate the federal application process without assistance;

14   and

15   WHEREAS, New Mexico maintains critical public health and

16   community resources, including the New Mexico tumor registry

17   and local health, aging, veterans and tribal service

18   organizations, that can assist eligible persons in

19   understanding eligibility and the application process; and

20   WHEREAS, ensuring that eligible New Mexico residents

21   receive compensation under the federal Radiation Exposure

22   Compensation Act is a matter of justice, dignity and

23   responsibility to communities that bore disproportionate risk

24   in service to the nation;

25   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

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1   REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it acknowledge

2   the harm experienced by New Mexico downwinders, uranium workers

3   and their families and recognize the importance of the expanded

4   federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act as an act of

5   federal accountability and recognition; and

6   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health, the

7   aging and long-term services department, the veterans' services

8   department and the Indian affairs department be requested to

9   collaborate with community-based organizations, tribal

10   governments and local governments to conduct outreach and

11   education and to provide technical assistance to ensure that

12   eligible persons are informed of and supported in applying for

13   compensation under the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation

14   Act before the December 31, 2027 deadline; and

15   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives

16   encourage the dissemination of clear, culturally appropriate

17   and accessible information regarding eligibility, documentation

18   options and survivor claims under the federal Radiation

19   Exposure Compensation Act, particularly in rural and

20   historically impacted communities; and

21   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

22   transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the

23   secretary of aging and long-term services, the secretary of

24   veterans' services, the secretary of Indian affairs and the New

25   Mexico congressional delegation.

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