

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS' SERVICES TO PURSUE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISHER HOUSE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS UNDERGOING TREATMENT OR REHABILITATION IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the United States department of veterans affairs operates a major medical center in Albuquerque with about seven thousand patient admissions each year; and

WHEREAS, there is no residential facility in the vicinity of the Albuquerque veterans affairs medical center to temporarily house family members of injured or ill veterans who are undergoing treatment or rehabilitation at the center; and

WHEREAS, having supportive family members nearby while undergoing treatment or rehabilitation is beneficial both mentally and physically for soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines; and

WHEREAS, a unique public-private program known as the Fisher house program is responsible for constructing dozens of Fisher houses near veterans hospitals and medical centers; and

WHEREAS, the houses, which range in size from five thousand to sixteen thousand square feet, are built on government land, donated as gifts to the military or the United States department of veterans affairs and operated and maintained by the respective services; and

WHEREAS, Fisher houses provide tangible benefits to the family members of men and women who have dedicated themselves to the service of the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of veterans' services be requested to pursue construction of a Fisher house in the vicinity of the veterans affairs medical center in Albuquerque; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature support the construction of a Fisher house in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services.