

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO ENACT THE LUPUS  
3 RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATIONS TO  
4 STRENGTHEN THE RESEARCH EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSES OF AND  
5 CURE FOR LUPUS.

6  
7 WHEREAS, lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that  
8 causes inflammation of various parts of the body, especially  
9 the skin, joints, blood and kidneys; and

10 WHEREAS, the immune system normally protects the body  
11 against viruses, bacteria and other foreign materials; and

12 WHEREAS, in an autoimmune disease like lupus, the immune  
13 system loses its ability to tell the difference between  
14 foreign substances and its own cells and tissues; and

15 WHEREAS, the immune system then makes antibodies  
16 directed against "self"; and

17 WHEREAS, lupus attacks vital organs, causes disabilities  
18 and can be fatal; and

19 WHEREAS, there are approximately one million five  
20 hundred thousand to two million Americans who suffer from  
21 lupus; and

22 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, with a population of one million  
23 eight hundred seventy-four thousand six hundred fourteen  
24 people, there are nine thousand six hundred sixty-nine  
25 reported cases of lupus; and

1           WHEREAS, lupus affects women nine times more than men;  
2 and

3           WHEREAS, lupus is two to three times more common among  
4 African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Native  
5 Americans; and

6           WHEREAS, about five percent of the children born to  
7 individuals with lupus will develop the illness; and

8           WHEREAS, there are no new cures for lupus; and

9           WHEREAS, there have been no new drugs approved from the  
10 food and drug administration for lupus in nearly forty years;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, the Lupus Research Enhancement Act creates a  
13 lupus research enhancement program to make grants to state  
14 academic medical institutions that conduct basic, clinical,  
15 social, translational, technological, epidemiological and  
16 behavioral research on lupus; and

17           WHEREAS, the Lupus Research Enhancement Act establishes  
18 a lupus research advisory council to review submitted grant  
19 applications and make recommendations to the appropriate  
20 state agencies; and

21           WHEREAS, the Lupus Research Enhancement Act calls upon  
22 the council to consult with the national institutes of  
23 health, the centers for disease control and prevention, the  
24 agency for healthcare research and quality, the institute of  
25 medicine and lupus advocacy groups to solicit information

1 regarding lupus research projects currently being conducted  
2 and make recommendations for future projects;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature take into  
5 consideration the enactment of the Lupus Research Enhancement  
6 Act and authorize appropriations deemed necessary to take  
7 care of those New Mexicans who suffer from lupus; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the children's cabinet of the office of the  
10 governor.

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