

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT ON THE COSTS
3 IN NEW MEXICO OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE, WHICH
4 DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTS AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC NEW
5 MEXICANS.

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7 WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is the most common
8 inherited blood disorder in the country; and

9 WHEREAS, sickle cell disease creates a chronic, painful
10 condition that affects people throughout their lives; and

11 WHEREAS, in the United States, most patients with sickle
12 cell disease are of African, Hispanic or Mediterranean
13 descent; and

14 WHEREAS, people of all ethnic backgrounds can have
15 sickle cell disease; and

16 WHEREAS, about one in three hundred seventy-five African
17 American babies and one in one thousand to one thousand four
18 hundred Hispanic babies are diagnosed with sickle cell
19 disease each year in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, the average lifespan of a person with sickle
21 cell disease is only forty-five years; and

22 WHEREAS, approximately one in every four thousand
23 Americans is born with a form of sickle cell disease; and

24 WHEREAS, two and one-half million Americans have the
25 sickle cell trait; and

1 WHEREAS, sickle cell disease affects the lives of
2 thousands who are hampered by physical and mental limitations
3 and debilitating pain; and

4 WHEREAS, while research and treatment are progressing,
5 patients with sickle cell disease suffer from dangerous blood
6 clots and are prone to strokes;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be
9 requested to study the affects and incidence of sickle cell
10 disease in New Mexico; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
12 requested to report to the interim legislative health and
13 human services committee on its findings by the committee's
14 November 2007 meeting; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the secretary of health, the chair and
17 vice-chair of the health and human services committee and to
18 the governor.

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