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SENATE MEMORIAL 50

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Cisco McSorley

A MEMORIAL

COMMEMORATING LYNN PIERSON AND ERIN ARMSTRONG FOR THEIR COURAGE AND STRENGTH TO ADVOCATE FOR LEGAL ACCESS TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR THE SICK AND DYING IN NEW MEXICO AND RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 13, 2010 AS "MEDICAL MARIJUANA DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, Lynn Pierson, an Albuquerque cancer patient, advocated for the passage of a model medical marijuana program in New Mexico in 1978; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature passed the Controlled Substances Therapeutic Research Act in 1978, establishing the Lynn Pierson therapeutic research program as a result of Lynn's advocacy efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Lynn Pierson therapeutic research program ended in 1986 because of lack of funding; and

WHEREAS, Erin Armstrong advocated tirelessly for the

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1 passage of New Mexico's new medical marijuana law; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico's medical marijuana law took effect on
3 July 1, 2007, after enactment of the Lynn and Erin
4 Compassionate Use Act; and

5 WHEREAS, in January 2009, the department of health issued
6 rules governing production, distribution and use of medicinal
7 marijuana under state law; and

8 WHEREAS, more than one thousand patients are currently
9 protected to possess and use medical marijuana for relief in
10 New Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, five nonprofit organizations have been licensed
12 by the department of health to ensure that registered patients
13 receive a safe and secure supply of their medicine; and

14 WHEREAS, the department of health accepts applications for
15 registry identification cards for possession and use of medical
16 marijuana to persons with serious and debilitating medical
17 conditions, including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, human
18 immunodeficiency virus infections, cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma,
19 multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury with intractable
20 spasticity, admittance into hospice care, painful peripheral
21 neuropathy, intractable nausea or vomiting, severe anorexia or
22 cachexia, hepatitis C while currently receiving antiviral
23 treatment, Crohn's disease, posttraumatic stress disorder,
24 amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's
25 disease, and severe chronic pain; and

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1 WHEREAS, any medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy or nurse
2 practitioner licensed to prescribe medicine in New Mexico is
3 eligible to write a recommendation for qualified patients to
4 register in the state's medical cannabis program; and

5 WHEREAS, the Obama administration released new guidelines
6 in October 2009, directing federal drug agents not to arrest or
7 harass medical marijuana patients and their sanctioned
8 suppliers in states that have approved the medicine as long as
9 the patients and suppliers are following their state's medical
10 marijuana law; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico law enforcement agencies recognize
12 that state law protects patients who have registered with the
13 department of health for possession of medical marijuana in the
14 medical cannabis program; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico is among fourteen states that have
16 passed laws that permit individuals living with a serious or
17 chronic illness to use medical marijuana as recommended by a
18 licensed physician and as used according to state and local
19 regulation; and

20 WHEREAS, the states of New Jersey, Rhode Island and Maine
21 have passed medical marijuana statutes modeled after the Lynn
22 and Erin Compassionate Use Act; and

23 WHEREAS, the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act passed by
24 the legislature has become the model legislation for the
25 nation;

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