

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 3, 2010 AS "OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY" AT
3 THE SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, the senate supports state overdose prevention
6 services; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2008, approximately four hundred people in
8 New Mexico died of accidental drug overdoses, the majority of
9 which were preventable; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2006, unintentional drug overdoses accounted
11 for nine percent of life lost due to premature death in New
12 Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, according to the department of health, New
14 Mexico's prescription opiate and heroin-related drug overdose
15 death rates are significantly higher than the national
16 average; and

17 WHEREAS, state and local public health agencies have
18 long supported effective overdose prevention programming; and

19 WHEREAS, since 2001, after the enactment of legislation
20 authorizing the administration of opioid antagonists,
21 naloxone, a medication that reverses opioid overdoses, has
22 been distributed to people at high risk of overdose in New
23 Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, naloxone is a critical component of any
25 effective overdose prevention and response program; and

1 WHEREAS, participants in programs incorporating naloxone
2 report an increased connection to safety and personal health
3 information and resources; and

4 WHEREAS, the frequency of heroin use decreased among
5 opioid users in a pilot study of naloxone distribution; and

6 WHEREAS, according to the department of health, about
7 three hundred people reported using naloxone to save lives in
8 2008 alone; and

9 WHEREAS, the state legislature approved the passage of
10 legislation in 2007 granting limited immunity from drug
11 possession charges for witnesses who call 911 to save the
12 life of an overdose victim; and

13 WHEREAS, families impacted by substance abuse should
14 receive education on overdose prevention; and

15 WHEREAS, overdose prevention awareness is regarded as an
16 important endeavor internationally, with August 31 being
17 recognized as "International Overdose Awareness Day"; and

18 WHEREAS, drug-related overdose prevention services and
19 programs are essential to saving lives in New Mexico;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 3, 2010 be recognized as
22 "Overdose Awareness Day" at the senate; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the director of the drug policy alliance and to
25 the harm reduction program manager at the department of

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