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HOUSE MEMORIAL 89

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Emily Kane

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION STUDY
THE DISABILITY IMPACT OF POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER ON
CERTAIN PROFESSIONS AND REVIEW CURRENT PRESUMPTIONS FOR
FIREFIGHTERS.

WHEREAS, approximately eight million American adults,
about three and one-half percent of the population, have been
diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder, also called PTSD;
and

WHEREAS, PTSD can significantly impair a person's life;
and

WHEREAS, people with PTSD may experience flashbacks to
traumatic events, have trouble sleeping, have frightening
thoughts and have nightmares; and

WHEREAS, people with PTSD may easily be startled, causing

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1 them to feel on edge or to have angry outbursts; and

2 WHEREAS, PTSD often leaves people feeling emotionally
3 numb, possibly experiencing a loss of interest in activities
4 that were once enjoyable and leaving a lingering feeling of
5 guilt or depression; and

6 WHEREAS, having PTSD affects not only the individual, but
7 also the individual's entire family; and

8 WHEREAS, people who work in certain professional fields,
9 including firefighting, may be more likely to experience PTSD;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, firefighters often put their lives at risk and
12 immerse themselves in horrific situations in the service of
13 others; and

14 WHEREAS, many occupations have a long history of
15 presumptive illnesses; and

16 WHEREAS, firefighting has an increased risk of certain
17 associated illnesses, including infectious diseases, cancers
18 and cardiovascular illness and injury;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the workers'
21 compensation administration be requested to study PTSD and its
22 relationship to job-related health problems for firefighters;
23 and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the workers' compensation
25 administration review the current presumptions for

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1 firefighters, including eleven cancers, five infectious
2 diseases and various cardiovascular provisions, that are
3 presumed to be job-related for the purposes of making a claim
4 to the workers' compensation administration; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the workers' compensation
6 administration allow all interested persons representing
7 workers and employers to participate and provide
8 recommendations and input into this study; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the workers' compensation
10 administration be requested to provide recommendations to the
11 legislature; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the workers' compensation administration.