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HOUSE MEMORIAL 9

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

James E. Smith

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL TO CONDUCT A
STATEWIDE CONCUSSION NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES AND VETERANS.

WHEREAS, the incidence of sports-related concussions in
middle and high school student athletes has not been adequately
identified and studied; and

WHEREAS, previous figures for sports-related concussions
are underestimated; and

WHEREAS, only ten to fifteen percent of sports-related
concussions involve a loss of consciousness; and

WHEREAS, athletes might fail to recognize and report
symptoms of a concussion; and

WHEREAS, appropriate diagnosis, management, referral and
education are critical for helping young athletes with

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1 concussions achieve optimal recovery; and

2 WHEREAS, veterans are returning to New Mexico communities
3 with undiagnosed symptoms of concussions; and

4 WHEREAS, posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain
5 injury have similar symptoms, yet treatment is different and an
6 accurate and timely diagnosis is essential to providing
7 effective treatment; and

8 WHEREAS, a concussion is a traumatic brain injury whether
9 it is the result of a combat-related incident or a sports-
10 related incident, and it needs to be identified so that proper
11 treatment can be provided;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the brain
14 injury advisory council be requested to conduct a study to
15 identify the incidence of concussions in student athlete and
16 veteran populations; to identify current practices for the
17 diagnosis and management of concussions; and to identify
18 regional needs regarding concussion diagnosis and management,
19 particularly with respect to those living in rural and frontier
20 areas; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the brain injury advisory
22 council report its findings and recommendations to the
23 appropriate legislative interim committee by November 1, 2014;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the brain injury advisory council and the co-
2 chairs of the New Mexico legislative council.

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