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SENATE MEMORIAL 78

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

HONORING CANCER PATIENTS, SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES;
REMEMBERING THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN LOST TO CANCER;
DECLARING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016, AS "CREATE HOPE FOR A
CANCER-FREE WORLD DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, nine thousand seven hundred fifty New Mexicans
are expected to be newly diagnosed with cancer in 2016; and

WHEREAS, for over thirty years, the American cancer
society relay for life has been celebrating hope, with more
than eleven thousand four hundred New Mexicans participating
annually, giving a voice to so many touched by cancer; and

WHEREAS, fifteen years ago, in 2001, many of these voices
joined together to form a nationwide grassroots movement called
the American cancer society cancer action network, an
organization united and relentless in its mission to defeat

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1 cancer by working with lawmakers to create hope for those
2 affected by cancer; and

3 WHEREAS, cancer patients face countless challenges
4 associated with their diagnoses, including physical, emotional,
5 financial and day-to-day challenges; and

6 WHEREAS, people without access to quality, affordable
7 health care are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with
8 advanced-stage cancer, resulting in significantly worse health
9 outcomes for low-income and uninsured cancer patients; and

10 WHEREAS, the five-year survival rate for cancer is sixty-
11 nine percent, up from forty-nine percent nearly forty years ago
12 thanks to cancer research as well as lifesaving cancer
13 prevention, screening, early detection and treatment programs;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, it is essential to preserve the quality of life
16 and dignity of all people who have struggled with cancer and
17 who often feel isolated, stigmatized and misunderstood; and

18 WHEREAS, tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause
19 of death, causing two thousand six hundred deaths in New Mexico
20 annually from sixteen different types of cancer, heart attacks
21 and strokes; and

22 WHEREAS, volunteers and members of the American cancer
23 society cancer action network work diligently every day to
24 advocate on behalf of cancer patients, survivors and caregivers
25 so that, one day, cancer will be eliminated as a major public

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1 health issue;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
3 OF NEW MEXICO that it honor cancer patients, cancer survivors
4 and their families and remember those who have been lost to
5 cancer and that it declare Monday, February 8, 2016, as "Create
6 Hope for a Cancer-Free World Day" in the senate; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the governor and members of the senate.

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