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SENATE MEMORIAL 81

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

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT TO SEEK PERMISSION FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO
ADD RETT SYNDROME TO THE LIST OF CONDITIONS THAT QUALIFY A
PERSON FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY WAIVER AND MEDICAID
SUPPORTS AND SERVICES.

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is a gene-related disorder and
progressive neurologic disease in girls that progresses from a
normal birth, and apparently normal psychomotor development
during the first six to eighteen months of life, to a rapid
regression in language and motor skills after a short period of
developmental stagnation; and

WHEREAS, the hallmark of Rett syndrome is the loss of
purposeful use of the hands, replaced by repetitive stereotyped
hand movements; and

underscoring material = new
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1 WHEREAS, screaming fits and inconsolable crying are common
2 by the age of eighteen to twenty-four months; and

3 WHEREAS, additional characteristics include autistic
4 features, bruxism, episodic apnea or hyperapnea, gait ataxia
5 and apraxia, tremors and acquired microcephaly; and

6 WHEREAS, following this period of rapid deterioration, the
7 progression of the disease slows, with girls developing
8 dystonia and foot or hand deformities as they age; and

9 WHEREAS, ninety percent of those with Rett syndrome suffer
10 from seizures; and

11 WHEREAS, girls with classic Rett syndrome typically
12 survive into adulthood; and

13 WHEREAS, there is no cure for Rett syndrome; and

14 WHEREAS, management of Rett syndrome focuses on optimizing
15 the individual abilities of the affected person and providing
16 psychosocial support for the family of the affected person; and

17 WHEREAS, persons diagnosed with Rett syndrome are not
18 currently considered eligible for services and supports under
19 New Mexico's definition of developmental disability approved by
20 the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services in the
21 state's developmental disability waiver application;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health and the human
24 services department be requested to seek approval from the
25 federal centers for medicare and medicaid services to add Rett

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1 syndrome to the list of conditions that qualify a person for
2 services and supports under the state's developmental
3 disability waiver program and the state's medicaid program; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, on or before August 1, 2016,
5 the department of health and the human services department
6 report to the legislative health and human services committee
7 on the status of their efforts to add Rett syndrome to the list
8 of conditions that qualify a person for services and supports
9 under the state's developmental disability waiver program and
10 the state's medicaid program; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of human
13 services and the chair and vice chair of the legislative health
14 and human services committee.