

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 86

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

INTRODUCED BY

Cisco McSorley

A MEMORIAL

URGING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT
LEGISLATION TO COVER THE COST OF CORONARY CALCIUM SCANS IN
MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, death from heart disease is the number one killer
of men and women, killing more people than the top five cancers
combined; and

WHEREAS, more than five hundred thousand men and women die
suddenly from heart attacks each year; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals have no symptoms prior
to experiencing a heart attack; and

WHEREAS, a heart scan procedure, also known as a coronary
calcium scan, has the potential of easy identification of
people at high risk of a heart attack; and

WHEREAS, the test is a computerized scan, an imaging study

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 that is brief, simple, painless and inexpensive when compared
2 to many medical tests; and

3 WHEREAS, coronary artery disease occurs when plaques build
4 up within the walls of arteries that encircle the heart,
5 causing a narrowing of the arteries; and

6 WHEREAS, calcified plaque can mean the presence of
7 coronary artery disease, which increases the risks of heart
8 attacks; and

9 WHEREAS, the plaques are deposits in the arterial walls
10 made up of fat, cholesterol and calcium, and heart scans can
11 detect the calcium in those plaques; and

12 WHEREAS, the amount of calcium in plaques can be used to
13 calculate a score that, when combined with other health
14 information, may help to determine a person's risk of coronary
15 artery disease on heart attack, according to the Mayo clinic;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the New Mexico heart institute in Albuquerque has
18 prevented thousands of men and women from unnecessarily dying
19 of unrecognized heart disease in the last ten years by
20 utilizing coronary calcium scans; and

21 WHEREAS, the coronary calcium scan has enabled some
22 individuals with an abnormal heart scan to be immediately
23 treated with inexpensive generic medications that stopped and
24 reversed their unrecognized heart disease; and

25 WHEREAS, because health insurance does not cover the cost

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 of this test, many men and women are not obtaining this simple
2 diagnostic coronary calcium scan; and

3 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the cost of a coronary
4 calcium scan to be covered by medicare and medicaid social
5 health care programs; and

6 WHEREAS, most of the major hospitals in New Mexico already
7 have machines that perform the coronary calcium scans; and

8 WHEREAS, because of a lack of funding, these coronary
9 calcium scan machines are underutilized;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO that members of the United States congress be
12 urged to support legislation to cover the cost of coronary
13 calcium scans in medicare and medicaid social health care
14 programs; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the members of the United States congress.