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HOUSE MEMORIAL 46

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 16, 2017 "METASTATIC BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, families across New Mexico are affected by a
family member's diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, much of the talk around breast cancer focuses on
early detection and routine diagnosis, and there has been
tremendous progress in the last thirty years; and

WHEREAS, the story for advanced breast cancer is quite
different, in that metastatic breast cancer patients continue
to face many unique challenges, such as the emotional and
physical demands of continual treatment; and

WHEREAS, currently no cure exists for metastatic breast
cancer, and those with metastatic breast cancer will continue
treatment indefinitely with the goal of extending the best

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1 quality of life possible; and

2 WHEREAS, more than one in eight women in the United States
3 will be affected by invasive breast cancer in their lifetimes;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, breast cancer can spread quickly and
6 inexplicably, regardless of the treatment or preventive
7 measures taken; and

8 WHEREAS, approximately six percent of newly diagnosed
9 breast cancer cases are diagnosed as metastatic breast cancer,
10 with an estimated thirty percent of early-stage breast cancer
11 cases becoming metastatic or recurrent advanced cases; and

12 WHEREAS, this devastating stage of breast cancer occurs
13 when cancer spreads beyond the breast to other parts of the
14 body, including the bones, lungs, liver and brain; and

15 WHEREAS, this devastating disease affects all races and
16 socioeconomic classes, and though White women see the greatest
17 incidence of breast cancer, the mortality rate for African
18 American women, with breast cancer is higher than in White
19 women and breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related
20 death for Hispanic women; and

21 WHEREAS, any discussions of breast cancer should include
22 the spectrum from screening through metastatic breast cancer;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the burdens that metastatic breast cancer place
25 on patients, families, the health care system and the economy

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1 are large; and

2 WHEREAS, metastatic breast cancer cuts short the lives of
3 too many women in New Mexico, leaving a lasting effect on their
4 families; and

5 WHEREAS, while there have been treatment advances in
6 metastatic breast cancer, many of those advances have benefited
7 a small subset of patients with specific types of metastatic
8 breast cancer; and

9 WHEREAS, while metastatic breast cancer remains incurable,
10 there is reason to be hopeful, as extensive research efforts
11 are under way to address this unmet need; and

12 WHEREAS, the national institutes of health have a website,
13 ClinicalTrials.gov, that is a searchable database and that
14 provides patients, family members and the public with
15 information about ongoing clinical research studies; and

16 WHEREAS, additional focus is needed on the personal and
17 social burdens of metastatic breast cancer, the needs of
18 patients and promising research efforts in the development of
19 more effective treatments; and

20 WHEREAS, there is still more research to be done for
21 metastatic breast cancer so that new and more effective
22 treatments can be developed; and

23 WHEREAS, New Mexico will continue to push for critical
24 research and advanced treatments for metastatic breast cancer;
25 and

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1 WHEREAS, individuals diagnosed with metastatic breast
2 cancer can speak with their physicians to learn more about the
3 disease and find support groups and services in their
4 communities or online; and

5 WHEREAS, on this day, the people of New Mexico are asked
6 to become informed about and aware of metastatic breast cancer;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 16,
9 2017, be proclaimed "Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day" in
10 the house of representatives; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the people of New Mexico be
12 requested to participate in observation of "Metastatic Breast
13 Cancer Awareness Day" to shed light on the devastation that
14 metastatic breast cancer brings to communities throughout New
15 Mexico.

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