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SENATE MEMORIAL 90

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez and Bill Tallman

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 25 THROUGH MARCH 3, 2019 "EATING DISORDERS
AWARENESS WEEK" IN NEW MEXICO IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK.

WHEREAS, eating disorders are shrouded in stigma, secrecy
and stereotypes, and the goal of this year's awareness campaign
is to shine a light on these deadly illnesses, dispel
misinformation and connect people with the support they need to
recover; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders are serious conditions that are
potentially life-threatening and have a great impact on both
the physical and emotional health of a person; and

WHEREAS, too often, signs and symptoms are overlooked, and
many individuals, families and communities are unaware of the
devastating mental and physical consequences of eating

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1 disorders, as well as the pressures, attitudes and behaviors
2 that shape them; and

3 WHEREAS, in the United States, twenty million women and
4 ten million men suffer from clinically significant eating
5 disorders at some time in their lives; and

6 WHEREAS, these disorders affect people from all
7 backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and
8 binge eating disorders; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico youth risk and resiliency survey
10 statistics show that, in 2009, four percent of United States
11 and seven and seven-tenths percent of New Mexico high school
12 youth had vomited or taken laxatives in the past thirty days to
13 lose weight or to keep from gaining weight, and among middle
14 school students, five and four-tenths percent had at one time
15 vomited or taken laxatives to lose weight or to keep from
16 gaining weight; and

17 WHEREAS, from 2014 to 2016, twenty-two New Mexicans were
18 hospitalized with a first-listed discharge diagnosis of
19 anorexia, of which fifteen of the twenty-two were female and
20 were fifteen to forty-four years old; and

21 WHEREAS, those in the fifteen to forty-four age group
22 consistently had the greatest numbers in each of the three
23 eating disorder categories of anorexia, bulimia and binge-
24 eating disorder; and

25 WHEREAS, from 2014 to 2016, three hundred eighty-one New

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1 Mexicans were hospitalized with a discharge diagnosis that
2 included anorexia, bulimia or binge-eating disorder, and
3 eighty-five percent of those patients were female; and

4 WHEREAS, over the past decade, the deaths of fourteen New
5 Mexicans were directly attributed to the eating disorder of
6 anorexia or bulimia; and

7 WHEREAS, the national eating disorders association strives
8 to address the many misconceptions regarding eating disorders
9 and to highlight the availability of resources for treatment
10 and support; and

11 WHEREAS, national eating disorders awareness week is a
12 collaborative effort consisting primarily of volunteers,
13 including eating disorder professionals, health care providers,
14 students, educators, social workers and individuals committed
15 to raising awareness of the dangers surrounding eating
16 disorders and the need for early intervention and access to
17 treatment; and

18 WHEREAS, eating disorders usually appear in adolescence
19 and are associated with substantial psychological problems,
20 including depression, substance abuse and suicide; and

21 WHEREAS, these disorders are serious illnesses, not
22 lifestyle choices, and, in fact, anorexia has the highest
23 mortality rate of any mental illness; and

24 WHEREAS, many cases of eating disorders go undetected and
25 less than one-third of young people with eating disorders will

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1 receive treatment; and

2 WHEREAS, eating disorders experts have found that prompt,
3 intensive treatment significantly improves the chances of
4 recovery; therefore, it is important for educators, medical
5 providers, parents and community members to be aware of the
6 warning signs and symptoms of eating disorders; and

7 WHEREAS, national eating disorders awareness week will
8 encourage people to share their stories and experiences with
9 disordered eating and body image struggles, highlight the
10 importance of screenings for the early detection and
11 intervention of eating disorders, dispel myths and present
12 eating disorders as a public health issue that affects all
13 kinds of people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size or
14 background; and

15 WHEREAS, the vital work of national eating disorders
16 awareness week is recognized in promoting public and media
17 attention to the seriousness of eating disorders and for
18 working to improve education about their biological and
19 environmental causes, as well as how to help those who are
20 struggling with these debilitating diseases;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
22 OF NEW MEXICO that February 25 to March 3, 2019 be declared
23 "Eating Disorders Awareness Week" in New Mexico in conjunction
24 with the observance of national eating disorders awareness
25 week; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor and the chair of the board of directors of the national eating disorders association.