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HOUSE MEMORIAL 53

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Pamelya Herndon

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO COLLABORATE WITH THE NEW MEXICO CHAPTER OF THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AND ANY OTHER ENTITY DEEMED APPROPRIATE OR BENEFICIAL TO, USING THE BEST AVAILABLE EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH REGARDING BRAIN HEALTH, UPDATE AND INTEGRATE THAT RESEARCH INTO THOSE DEPARTMENTS' RESPECTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND CAMPAIGNS AND INTO THOSE DEPARTMENTS' RESPECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND CAMPAIGNS AND FURTHER REQUESTING THOSE DEPARTMENTS TO SEEK FEDERAL FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR THE UPDATING AND INTEGRATION EFFORTS THROUGH THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION ON AGING'S ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PROGRAMS INITIATIVE AND ANY OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS, FUNDS OR RESOURCES THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE.

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1 WHEREAS, according to the national institute on aging,
2 Alzheimer's disease is a brain disorder that slowly destroys an
3 individual's memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the
4 individual's ability to carry out simple tasks, and Alzheimer's
5 disease is the most common cause of dementia among older
6 adults; and

7 WHEREAS, according to *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and*
8 *Figures*, published by the Alzheimer's association, nearly seven
9 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and one
10 in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's disease or another
11 dementia, and together these dementias cause more deaths than
12 breast cancer and prostate cancer combined; and

13 WHEREAS, that same publication indicated that in 2024,
14 Alzheimer's disease and other dementias would likely cost the
15 nation three hundred sixty billion dollars (\$360,000,000,000),
16 and the costs could rise to one trillion dollars
17 (\$1,000,000,000,000) by the year 2050; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the New Mexico chapter of the
19 Alzheimer's association, more than forty-six thousand people in
20 the state are living with Alzheimer's disease, and sixty-seven
21 thousand caregivers dedicate a staggering one hundred eighteen
22 million hours of unpaid care; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1960, Dr. Alois Alzheimer noticed changes in
24 the brain tissue of a woman who died of an unusual mental
25 illness, and upon examining her brain, Dr. Alzheimer found many

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1 abnormal clumps, now called amyloid plaques, and tangled
2 bundles of fibers, now called neurofibrillary or tau tangles;
3 and these plaques and tangles, along with the loss of
4 connectors between neurons in the brain, are some of the main
5 features of Alzheimer's disease; and

6 WHEREAS, an increased understanding of brain health
7 derived from the best available evidence-based research related
8 to cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
9 is essential to increase the public's understanding and
10 awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and the
11 warning signs, risk reductions and early detection of such
12 debilitating brain diseases and is equally essential to educate
13 the public about the relationship between chronic diseases and
14 Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; and

15 WHEREAS, there are significant challenges faced by
16 caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other
17 dementias, including obtaining access to resources that may be
18 available to help support caregivers with these challenges; and

19 WHEREAS, health care providers can play a significant role
20 in educating individuals about the risk factors and early
21 detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other
22 dementias; and

23 WHEREAS, it is essential to provide education and
24 resources to the state's health care providers regarding the
25 importance of validated assessment tools for detection and

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1 diagnosis of cognitive impairment and the value of employing
2 those tools during an individual's medicare annual wellness
3 visit, along with ensuring that health care providers
4 understand the medicare care planning billing codes for
5 individuals with cognitive impairment, the provision of
6 effective care planning and available treatments; and

7 WHEREAS, health care providers will be better enabled to
8 provide the best standard of care for individuals faced with an
9 Alzheimer's disease or other dementia diagnosis if the health
10 care providers have access to the best evidence-based research
11 on brain health and related diseases; and

12 WHEREAS, the federal administration on aging leads
13 initiatives to support people living with Alzheimer's disease
14 and related dementias and their caregivers, and the agency
15 provides funding to states and community-based organizations
16 through the Alzheimer's disease programs initiative; and

17 WHEREAS, the need for federal funds and resources is
18 clear, and focused efforts to obtain those funds and resources
19 for New Mexico could play a significant role in the state's
20 ability to positively impact education, awareness and care for
21 all New Mexico residents whose lives, or the lives of their
22 loved ones, are touched by Alzheimer's disease or other
23 dementias;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department

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1 of health and the aging and long-term services department, in
2 collaboration with the New Mexico chapter of the Alzheimer's
3 association and any other entity deemed appropriate or
4 beneficial, be requested to, using the best available evidence-
5 based research regarding brain health, update and integrate
6 that research into those departments' respective public health
7 education and outreach programs and campaigns and into those
8 departments' respective health care provider education and
9 outreach programs and campaigns; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to assist with the costs of
11 updating and integrating public health outreach programs and
12 campaigns, the department of health and the aging and long-term
13 services department be requested to seek to obtain funds and
14 resources from the federal administration on aging through the
15 federal administration's Alzheimer's disease programs
16 initiative and any other federal programs, funds or resources
17 that may be available; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health and
19 the aging and long-term services department be requested to
20 work together to produce a report on the outcomes of the
21 efforts to update and integrate evidence-based research and
22 information regarding Alzheimer's disease for education and
23 outreach programs and campaigns as requested in this 2025
24 memorial and to provide that report to the New Mexico
25 legislative council and the governor; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the secretary of aging and long-term services, the New Mexico chapter of the Alzheimer's association and the New Mexico legislative council.