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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 95

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

PATSY G. TRUJILLO

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE TO ASSESS THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE
PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF OSTEOPOROSIS.

WHEREAS, approximately twenty-five million Americans,
twenty million of them women, have or are at risk of getting
osteoporosis, a disease characterized by thinning of the bones
so that they are prone to fracture; and

WHEREAS, osteoporosis is the cause of about one million
three hundred thousand broken bones each year in the United
States; and

WHEREAS, the disease costs Americans ten billion dollars
(\$10,000,000,000) a year, more than congestive heart failure at
seven billion five hundred million dollars (\$7,500,000,000) or
asthma at six billion two hundred million dollars

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1 (\$6, 200, 000, 000); and

2 WHEREAS, a new model derived from the American society of
3 bone and mineral research, which uses United States census data
4 and estimates fracture risk from epidemiological data, predicts
5 that the cost of osteoporosis-related fractures in New Mexico
6 will rise by more than twenty-one percent by the year 2015 and
7 the annual cost to New Mexico's health care system will rise
8 from twenty-six million dollars (\$26, 000, 000) in 1995 to one
9 hundred twenty-one million dollars (\$121, 000, 000) in 2015; and

10 WHEREAS, osteoporosis is not part of normal aging and
11 should not be ignored; and

12 WHEREAS, the only way to eradicate the disease of
13 osteoporosis is through research, education and advocacy; and

14 WHEREAS, the national osteoporosis foundation has a number
15 of campaigns under way to educate Americans about the risk
16 factors associated with this disease;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the interim legislative health and
19 human services committee be requested to review the model bills
20 developed by the national osteoporosis foundation to assess
21 whether to introduce legislation to address the prevention,
22 diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis by passing education,
23 bone density testing or task force legislation; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the chairman of the interim legislative health

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1 and human services committee and the New Mexico legislative
2 council.

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