

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

2 43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 SHERYL M WILLIAMS

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, IN CONSULTATION WITH
12 THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, TO
13 INVESTIGATE THE LACK OF COVERAGE FOR ENDOMETRIOSIS TREATMENTS
14 BY INSURANCE COMPANIES.

15
16 WHEREAS, endometriosis is a disease of any tissue similar
17 to the lining of the uterus that is found living outside the
18 uterus, usually in the female pelvis, and it has been found on
19 every pelvic organ, including the uterus, ovaries, tubes,
20 ligaments, ureters, bowel, bladder and other peritoneal
21 surfaces; and

22 WHEREAS, every case of endometriosis is different from
23 every other case but the disease can cause debilitating pain,
24 the magnitude of which depends on where the diseased tissue is
25 and how much there is, with even a small and relatively

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1 inactive case causing incapacitating pain; and

2 WHEREAS, advanced-stage patients may feel no pain, and
3 yet patients with minimal disease can be incapacitated by
4 pain; and

5 WHEREAS, other symptoms may include severe menstrual
6 cramps, pelvic pain apart from menses, backache, painful
7 intercourse, painful bowel movements, fatigue, bloating,
8 constipation, menstrual diarrhea, pain with exercise, painful
9 pelvic exams, painful and frequent urination and others; and

10 WHEREAS, surgery or laparoscopy are the only certain ways
11 to diagnose endometriosis, and between twelve and fifteen
12 percent of the female population have endometriosis; and

13 WHEREAS, although not all afflicted women know they have
14 it, some women have not been diagnosed and others have no
15 symptoms; and

16 WHEREAS, endometriosis can affect any woman, regardless
17 of age, race or childbearing status; and

18 WHEREAS, if all of a woman's endometriosis is completely
19 removed at surgery, she has better than an eighty percent
20 chance that it will not recur; and

21 WHEREAS, treatments for endometriosis may include a
22 watchful wait-and-see period with frequent examinations by a
23 physician; drugs to affect the amount of estrogen, which will
24 slow the rate of progression and the amount of local injury;
25 use of oral contraceptives; and surgery ranging from

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1 diagnostic to radical;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of insurance, in
4 consultation with the university of New Mexico school of
5 medicine, investigate the lack of coverage for endometriosis
6 treatments by insurance companies and report their findings
7 and recommendations for legislation to the appropriate
8 legislative committee by November 1, 1998; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the superintendent of insurance and to the dean
11 of the university of New Mexico school of medicine.

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2 SECOND SESSION, 1998
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6 February 3, 1998
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8 Mr. Speaker:
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10 Your BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE, to whom has
11 been referred
12

13 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 14
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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

17 Respectfully submitted,
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21 _____
22 Fred Luna, Chairman
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4 Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

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6 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

7
8 Date _____

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10 The roll call vote was 8 For 1 Against

11 Yes: 8

12 No: Lutz

13 Excused: Getty, Hobbs, Olguin, Varela

14 Absent: None

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1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

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4 February 13, 1998

5 Mr. President:

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7 Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been
8 referred

9 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

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11 has had it under consideration and reports same with
12 recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:

13
14 1. On page 1, line 13, before "COVERAGE" insert
15 "INSURANCE" and before "ENDOMETRIOSIS" insert "CERTAIN".

16
17 2. On page 1, line 14, strike "BY INSURANCE COMPANIES" and
18 insert in lieu thereof "RELATED TO INFERTILITY".

19
20 3. On page 3, line 5, before "coverage" insert "insurance"
21 and before "endometriosis" insert "certain".

22
23 4. On page 3, line 5, before "investigate" insert "and
interested insurance providers be requested to".

24
25 5. On page 3, line 6, strike "by insurance companies" and

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insert in lieu thereof "related to infertility".,

and thence referred to the CORPORATIONS & TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Robinson, Chairman

Adopted _____ Not

Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

No: 0

Excused: Boitano, Ingle, Smith

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Absent: None

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