

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 73

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Jose R. Abeyta

A JOINT MEMORIAL

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION TO STRENGTHEN EFFORTS IN INFORMING THE PUBLIC AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF OBESITY.

WHEREAS, obesity is the second leading cause of
preventable death in the country, responsible for three
hundred thousand lives lost each year; and

WHEREAS, health care costs directly attributable to
obesity are approximately seventy billion dollars
(\$70,000,000,000); and

WHEREAS, obesity is a major contributor to a wide variety
of chronic and debilitating diseases, including diabetes, high
blood pressure, heart disease, joint and back problems,
hypertension, gall bladder disease, respiratory dysfunction,
gout and osteoarthritis; and

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1 WHEREAS, approximately fifty percent of breast cancer and
2 forty-two percent of colon cancer cases are found among obese
3 individuals; and

4 WHEREAS, is it estimated that thirty-five percent of our
5 population is obese and the prevalence of obesity grew a
6 shocking thirty-four percent during the past ten years; and

7 WHEREAS, a New Mexico diabetes control program study
8 found that there are approximately twenty thousand obese
9 children between the ages of eleven and fifteen; and

10 WHEREAS, the percentage of Hispanic children determined
11 by this study to suffer from obesity is nearly fifty-eight
12 percent, compared to an overall Hispanic population of thirty-
13 seven and one-half percent, and the percentage of Native
14 American children with obesity is more than fifteen percent,
15 compared to an overall Native American population of
16 approximately nine percent; and

17 WHEREAS, a national study by Kaiser Permanente indicated
18 that there is a significant potential for a reduction in
19 health care expenditures through obesity prevention efforts;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, affluence and the effects of the computer age
22 have considerable reduced the level of our society's physical
23 activity, especially among school-age and pre-school-age
24 children; and

25 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for state health

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1 agencies, including school health officials, and New Mexico
2 health professionals to place obesity awareness in the
3 forefront of health education efforts;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health and the
6 state department of public education make substantially
7 increased efforts to educate the public, especially school-age
8 children, of the most effective ways of avoiding or treating
9 obesity; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that departmental efforts include
11 improved education of health professionals, school health
12 officials, school cafeteria nutritionists and managers,
13 hospital and other health facility nutritionists; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that statewide organizations of
15 health professionals be requested to contribute to obesity
16 education of their respective professions; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school of medicine at the
18 university of New Mexico give serious consideration to
19 expanding its course work in basic nutrition education so as
20 to favorably impact the obesity problem facing New Mexicans;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health, the
23 state department of education and the university of New Mexico
24 school of medicine report their respective efforts in relation
25 to obesity education efforts to the legislative health and

1 human services committee by October 1, 1999; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 sent to the secretary of health, the superintendent of public
4 education, the dean of the school of medicine at the
5 university of New Mexico and to boards of health professionals
6 licensed by the state for appropriate distribution.

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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

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6 March 9, 1999

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8 Mr. Speaker:

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10 Your CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to
11 whom has been referred

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13 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 73

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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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22 Patsy Trujillo Knauer,

23 Chairwoman
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 4 For 0 Against

Yes: 4

Excused: Hamilton, Hawkins, Vaughn

Absent: None

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March 15, 1999

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Mr. President:

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Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been
referred

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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 73

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has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Shannon Robinson, Chairman

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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Adopted _____ Not

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Adopted _____

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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Date _____

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The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

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Yes: 6

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No: 0

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Excused: Boitano, Stockard, Smith

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Absent: None

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