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SENATE MEMORIAL 27

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn and Angel M. Charley and Benny Shendo, Jr.
and Shannon D. Pinto and Harold Pope

A MEMORIAL

ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPACT OF RADIATION EXPOSURE ON NEW MEXICO
RESIDENTS; RECOGNIZING THE EXPANSION OF THE FEDERAL RADIATION
EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT; URGING STATEWIDE OUTREACH AND
ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE PERSONS APPLYING FOR
COMPENSATION PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER 31, 2027 DEADLINE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to many communities that were
exposed to radiation as a result of the trinity nuclear test
and decades of uranium mining, milling and transport activities
that supported national defense and energy security interests;
and

WHEREAS, for generations, New Mexico downwinders, uranium
workers and their families have experienced elevated rates of
cancer and other serious health impacts without formal
recognition or compensation; and

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1 WHEREAS, congress expanded the federal Radiation Exposure
2 Compensation Act to include New Mexico downwinders and post-
3 1971 uranium workers, providing a one-time payment of one
4 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to eligible persons or
5 their survivors; and

6 WHEREAS, the expanded eligibility under the federal
7 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act requires all claims to be
8 filed no later than December 31, 2027; and

9 WHEREAS, many eligible New Mexico residents, particularly
10 elders, rural residents, tribal members and families of
11 deceased persons, may be unaware of their eligibility,
12 uncertain of how to document presence or illness or unable to
13 navigate the federal application process without assistance;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico maintains critical public health and
16 community resources, including the New Mexico tumor registry
17 and local health, aging, veterans and tribal service
18 organizations, that can assist eligible persons in
19 understanding eligibility and the application process; and

20 WHEREAS, ensuring that eligible New Mexico residents
21 receive compensation under the federal Radiation Exposure
22 Compensation Act is a matter of justice, dignity and
23 responsibility to communities that bore disproportionate risk
24 in service to the nation;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

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1 OF NEW MEXICO that it acknowledge the harm experienced by New
2 Mexico downwinders, uranium workers and their families and
3 recognize the importance of the expanded federal Radiation
4 Exposure Compensation Act as an act of federal accountability
5 and recognition; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health, the
7 aging and long-term services department, the veterans' services
8 department and the Indian affairs department be requested to
9 collaborate with community-based organizations, tribal
10 governments and local governments to conduct outreach and
11 education and to provide technical assistance to ensure that
12 eligible persons are informed of and supported in applying for
13 compensation under the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation
14 Act before the December 31, 2027 deadline; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate encourage the
16 dissemination of clear, culturally appropriate and accessible
17 information regarding eligibility, documentation options and
18 survivor claims under the federal Radiation Exposure
19 Compensation Act, particularly in rural and historically
20 impacted communities; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the
23 secretary of aging and long-term services, the secretary of
24 veterans' services, the secretary of Indian affairs and the New
25 Mexico congressional delegation.

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