

1 A MEMORIAL

2 COMMENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR ITS ROLE IN  
3 FORMULATING AND CONTINUALLY DEVELOPING APPROACHES TO  
4 DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF CERVICAL CANCER THROUGH THE  
5 "NEW MEXICO CANCER PLAN".

6  
7 WHEREAS, cervical cancer is the second most common  
8 cancer in women worldwide, following breast cancer; and

9 WHEREAS, according to federal government statistics,  
10 cervical cancer is the third most common form of cancer in  
11 women in the United States, with about twelve thousand two  
12 hundred cases diagnosed each year, four thousand one hundred  
13 of which result in fatalities; and

14 WHEREAS, widespread screening programs have reduced, but  
15 not entirely eliminated, the rate of women dying from  
16 cervical cancer; and

17 WHEREAS, with regular and accurate screening, cervical  
18 cancer is highly preventable; and

19 WHEREAS, the incidence of cervical cancer in the United  
20 States is generally attributable to a lack of education about  
21 the disease, reduced access to regular cervical cancer  
22 screening and a lack of screening accuracy; and

23 WHEREAS, experience shows that increasing awareness of  
24 cervical cancer among women significantly reduces the  
25 probability of mortality; and

1           WHEREAS, cervical cancer disproportionately affects  
2 minority and low-income women because they are less likely to  
3 have access to routine screening; and

4           WHEREAS, approximately one-half of all cervical cancer  
5 cases occur in women who have never been screened, and ten  
6 percent of the cases occur in women who have not been  
7 screened within the last five years; and

8           WHEREAS, the median age for cervical cancer is  
9 forty-seven years, which is the youngest median age for all  
10 female reproductive cancers; and

11           WHEREAS, the federal food and drug administration has  
12 approved testing for human papillomavirus, which is the cause  
13 of virtually all cervical cancers, as an effective screening  
14 technology; and

15           WHEREAS, this screening technology offers new  
16 opportunities to finally eliminate this potentially deadly  
17 disease through early identification of women at increased  
18 risk; and

19           WHEREAS, leading medical organizations, including the  
20 American college of obstetricians and gynecologists, the  
21 American cancer society and the association of reproductive  
22 health professionals, have recently updated their screening  
23 guidelines to include testing for the human papillomavirus;  
24 and

25           WHEREAS, women are entitled to the most current and

1 accurate information regarding cervical cancer detection and  
2 treatment so that they can make informed health care  
3 decisions; and

4 WHEREAS, through education, screening and early  
5 detection, the incidence of cervical cancer in women in  
6 New Mexico can be reduced, and more women will receive  
7 effective treatment;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be  
10 commended for its role in formulating and developing  
11 approaches to detection and treatment of cervical cancer  
12 through the "New Mexico Cancer Plan"; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be  
14 recognized for developing and utilizing data regarding the  
15 incidence of cervical cancer in New Mexico women, the testing  
16 for the presence of human papillomavirus, disseminating  
17 educational materials and improving access to regular  
18 screening and options to improve screening accuracy; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be  
20 further commended for its continuing efforts to identify  
21 pockets of need, prioritize strategies, incorporate new  
22 technologies and utilize preventive measures in controlling  
23 cervical cancer; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that progress reports regarding  
25 the successes achieved through the "New Mexico Cancer Plan",

1 which serves as a national model of effective cancer control  
2 strategies, be presented annually to the governor, the  
3 president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the  
4 house of representatives and be posted on the department of  
5 health cancer programs web site; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the department of health. \_\_\_\_\_

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