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SENATE MEMORIAL 43

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane M Garcia

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

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1 WHEREAS, with regular and accurate screening, cervical
2 cancer is highly preventable; and

3 WHEREAS, the incidence of cervical cancer in the United
4 States is generally attributable to a lack of education about
5 the disease, reduced access to regular cervical cancer
6 screening and a lack of screening accuracy; and

7 WHEREAS, experience shows that increasing awareness of
8 cervical cancer among women significantly reduces the
9 probability of mortality; and

10 WHEREAS, cervical cancer disproportionately affects
11 minority and low-income women because they are less likely to
12 have access to routine screening; and

13 WHEREAS, approximately one-half of all cervical cancer
14 cases occur in women who have never been screened, and ten
15 percent of the cases occur in women who have not been screened
16 within the last five years; and

17 WHEREAS, the median age for cervical cancer is forty-seven
18 years, which is the youngest median age for all female
19 reproductive cancers; and

20 WHEREAS, the federal food and drug administration has
21 approved testing for human papillomavirus, which is the cause
22 of virtually all cervical cancers, as an effective screening
23 technology; and

24 WHEREAS, this screening technology offers new
25 opportunities to finally eliminate this potentially deadly

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1 disease through early identification of women at increased
2 risk; and

3 WHEREAS, leading medical organizations, including the
4 American college of obstetricians and gynecologists, the
5 American cancer society and the association of reproductive
6 health professionals, have recently updated their screening
7 guidelines to include testing for the human papillomavirus; and

8 WHEREAS, women are entitled to the most current and
9 accurate information regarding cervical cancer detection and
10 treatment so that they can make informed health care decisions;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, through education, screening and early detection,
13 the incidence of cervical cancer in women in New Mexico can be
14 reduced, and more women will receive effective treatment;

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

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
21 recognized for developing and utilizing data regarding the
22 incidence of cervical cancer in New Mexico women, the testing
23 for the presence of human papillomavirus, disseminating
24 educational materials and improving access to regular screening
25 and options to improve screening accuracy; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
2 further commended for its continuing efforts to identify
3 pockets of need, prioritize strategies, incorporate new
4 technologies and utilize preventive measures in controlling
5 cervical cancer; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that progress reports regarding the
7 successes achieved through the "New Mexico Cancer Plan", which
8 serves as a national model of effective cancer control
9 strategies, be presented annually to the governor, the
10 president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the
11 house of representatives and be posted on the department of
12 health cancer programs web site; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the department of health.