

A JOINT MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR A CURE FOR ENDOMETRIOSIS AND THE MONTH OF MARCH AS "ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH".

WHEREAS, endometriosis is a painful reproductive and immunological disease afflicting more than seven million women and teenagers in the United States and an estimated seventy million worldwide; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown an elevated risk of certain cancers and autoimmune diseases in endometriosis patients, and endometriosis is a leading cause of female infertility and hysterectomy; and

WHEREAS, endometriosis not only affects the female reproductive system, but it can also be found in other areas of the body, including the intestines, bladder, lungs, skin and brain; and

WHEREAS, endometriosis may have a debilitating impact on a woman's quality of life and her relationships and, in some cases, may render her unable to work or care for her family; and

WHEREAS, endometriosis can strike women of any socioeconomic class, age or race; and

WHEREAS, the cause of endometriosis is unknown, and there is currently no definitive cure; and

WHEREAS, many women suffer needlessly for many years

because endometriosis is very difficult to treat and diagnose;
and

WHEREAS, government-funded research has traditionally gone to other high-profile diseases, and little effort has been made to designate appropriate funds to seek a cure for endometriosis; and

WHEREAS, the endometriosis research center is a nonprofit organization founded in 1997 that actively supports continued awareness, education and research facilitation for endometriosis; and

WHEREAS, the endometriosis research center also aggressively seeks to educate legislators and the medical community on the needs of those with endometriosis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the need for better support of patients with endometriosis, the need for physicians to understand the disease better, the need for more effective treatments and, ultimately, the need for a cure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize the month of March as "Endometriosis Awareness Month".