

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 53

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS' SERVICES TO PURSUE THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A FISHER HOUSE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS
UNDERGOING TREATMENT OR REHABILITATION IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the United States department of veterans affairs
operates a major medical center in Albuquerque with about seven
thousand patient admissions each year; and

WHEREAS, there is no residential facility in the vicinity
of the Albuquerque veterans affairs medical center to
temporarily house family members of injured or ill veterans who
are undergoing treatment or rehabilitation at the center; and

WHEREAS, having supportive family members nearby while
undergoing treatment or rehabilitation is beneficial both
mentally and physically for soldiers, sailors, airmen and
marines; and

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1 WHEREAS, a unique public-private program known as the
2 Fisher house program is responsible for constructing dozens of
3 Fisher houses near veterans hospitals and medical centers; and

4 WHEREAS, the houses, which range in size from five
5 thousand to sixteen thousand square feet, are built on
6 government land, donated as gifts to the military or the United
7 States department of veterans affairs and operated and
8 maintained by the respective services; and

9 WHEREAS, Fisher houses provide tangible benefits to the
10 family members of men and women who have dedicated themselves
11 to the service of the United States;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of veterans' services be
14 requested to pursue construction of a Fisher house in the
15 vicinity of the veterans affairs medical center in Albuquerque;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature support the
18 construction of a Fisher house in New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services.