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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A JOINT MEMORIAL

DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2011 "CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" IN  
THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, each year, approximately twelve thousand five  
hundred American children are diagnosed with cancer; and

WHEREAS, oncologist Stuart Winter at the university of New  
Mexico reports that the university sees seventy-five to ninety  
new childhood cancer cases a year; and

WHEREAS, there has been dramatic progress in treating  
cancer in children in the past few decades, with an eighty  
percent rate of cure among children; and

WHEREAS, three out of every four children diagnosed with  
Hodgkin's disease are cured; and

WHEREAS, the number of children surviving acute  
lymphocytic leukemia has risen by twenty-five percent since

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1 1974; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Winter attributes the high rate of cure among  
3 children to the practice of encouraging patients and their  
4 families to participate in cancer clinical trials, in which the  
5 patient serves as a human subject of research; and

6 WHEREAS, although survival rates have risen sharply over  
7 the past few decades, cancer is still the leading cause of  
8 death by disease for young people; and

9 WHEREAS, the causes of cancer in children are largely  
10 unknown; and

11 WHEREAS, further research is greatly needed to find the  
12 risk factors for and causes of childhood cancers; and

13 WHEREAS, health care professionals, researchers, private  
14 philanthropies, social support organizations and advocacy  
15 groups are working together in this state and nationwide to end  
16 the threat of childhood cancers; and

17 WHEREAS, in order to maintain access to high-quality  
18 cancer care in the state, New Mexico policymakers must continue  
19 to recruit and retain health care professionals with expertise  
20 in treating childhood cancers; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the good fortune to have world-  
22 class physicians and staff and award-winning cancer treatment  
23 institutions, such as the New Mexico cancer center, the  
24 southern New Mexico cancer center and the university of New  
25 Mexico cancer center; and

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