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HOUSE MEMORIAL 43

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

INTRODUCED BY

Danice Picraux

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR FOR HEALTH SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY HOW TO IMPLEMENT A "CLEAN AIR ON CAMPUS ACT".

WHEREAS, colleges and universities have an obligation to provide a safe environment for students, employees and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Iowa and Arkansas have passed legislation that prohibits smoking on all public college and university campuses; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 surgeon general's report on secondhand smoke concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; and

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1 WHEREAS, the 2009 report by the institute of medicine
2 stated that exposure to secondhand smoke can result in adverse
3 health effects, including heart disease in nonsmoking adults;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the 2010 report released by the surgeon general
6 states that inhaling even the smallest amount of tobacco smoke
7 can damage DNA, which can lead to cancer; and

8 WHEREAS, field studies indicate that outdoor tobacco smoke
9 does not immediately dissipate and that exposure levels may be
10 as high outdoors as indoors; and

11 WHEREAS, three hundred thirty New Mexico adult nonsmokers
12 die each year from exposure to secondhand smoke; and

13 WHEREAS, each year, smoking is directly responsible for
14 four hundred sixty-one millions dollars (\$461,000,000) in
15 health care costs in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, twenty-four percent of New Mexico high school
17 students smoke; and

18 WHEREAS, a national study of college students found that
19 twenty-eight percent of current smokers began to smoke
20 regularly at age nineteen or older, during the time they were
21 in college; and

22 WHEREAS, smoking — and secondhand smoke — are serious
23 public health issues and smoking should be banned on college
24 and university campuses to prevent students who enter college
25 or university from starting to smoke;

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