

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW  
3 MEXICO TO ESTABLISH A MOVEMENT DISORDERS CENTER TO PROVIDE  
4 CURRICULUM TO TRAIN MEDICAL TRAINEES IN MOVEMENT DISORDERS  
5 AND TO PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR THOSE AFFLICTED WITH MOVEMENT  
6 DISORDERS.

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8 WHEREAS, movement disorders are a group of neurological  
9 illnesses that affect one's ability to move normally and  
10 include Parkinson's disease, essential tremor and other  
11 tremor disorders, Tourette syndrome, Huntington's disease,  
12 dystonia, restless legs syndrome and ataxia; and

13 WHEREAS, collectively, these disorders affect up to ten  
14 million people in the United States, more than two hundred  
15 fifty thousand of whom live in New Mexico, and these numbers  
16 are expected to rise with the aging of the population; and

17 WHEREAS, movement disorders are mostly chronic,  
18 progressive brain disorders for which there is currently no  
19 cure; and

20 WHEREAS, a movement disorders center provides advanced  
21 diagnosis and interdisciplinary care for movement disorders  
22 patients as well as support for caregivers; and

23 WHEREAS, a movement disorders center provides a means to  
24 minimize and manage the morbidity associated with movement  
25 disorders; and

1           WHEREAS, movement disorders patients require an accurate  
2 early diagnosis, best medical management practices and a  
3 multidisciplinary approach to address the myriad chronic  
4 issues that patients and caregivers face daily; and

5           WHEREAS, at a movement disorders center, patients may  
6 receive care from neurologists having movement disorders  
7 specialty certification, as well as from psychiatrists,  
8 neurosurgeons and other physicians; and

9           WHEREAS, at a movement disorders center, movement  
10 disorders patients routinely receive care from allied health  
11 professionals such as neuropsychologists and physical,  
12 occupational and speech therapists; and

13           WHEREAS, medical treatments for movement disorders  
14 include medications that require sophisticated individual  
15 management and a team approach; and

16           WHEREAS, there are currently only three neurologists in  
17 New Mexico who have fellowship training in movement  
18 disorders: one who is limited largely to serving the United  
19 States veterans health administration and two others with  
20 only limited availability for new patients; and

21           WHEREAS, it can take up to nine months to get a first  
22 appointment with a movement disorders specialist in New  
23 Mexico; and

24           WHEREAS, the symptoms of patients who experience long  
25 delays in gaining access to specialty movement disorders care

1 often worsen considerably during their waits; and

2 WHEREAS, there are access disparities for movement  
3 disorders care in New Mexico as, very often, those patients  
4 who can afford it and are mobile enough to travel seek care  
5 for their movement disorders in other states where adequate  
6 movement disorders care is available, such as Colorado or  
7 Arizona, while the average movement disorders patient does  
8 not have the ability to obtain care out of state; and

9 WHEREAS, Colorado and Arizona both have many movement  
10 disorders centers, which are often located at teaching  
11 hospitals that are specially able to treat these movement  
12 disorders and provide a comprehensive level of care that is  
13 not available in New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico provides New  
15 Mexico with access to a teaching hospital that houses a  
16 neuroscience center;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the board of  
19 regents of the university of New Mexico be requested to  
20 devise a plan to create a movement disorders center that is  
21 staffed with movement disorders specialists with fellowship  
22 training and provides support and allied health care to  
23 patients; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of regents of the  
25 university of New Mexico be requested to house the movement

1 disorders center in a facility that has physical access that  
2 is appropriate for providing care to patients with movement  
3 disorders; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of regents of the  
5 university of New Mexico be requested to report its plan for  
6 creating a movement disorders center at the university of New  
7 Mexico to the legislative health and human services committee  
8 by November 1, 2018; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the president of the board of regents of the  
11 university of New Mexico, the president of the university of  
12 New Mexico, the chancellor for health sciences of the  
13 university of New Mexico and the chair and vice chair of the  
14 legislative health and human services committee. \_\_\_\_\_

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