

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
3 NEW MEXICO TO ESTABLISH A MOVEMENT DISORDERS CENTER TO
4 PROVIDE CURRICULUM TO TRAIN MEDICAL TRAINEES IN MOVEMENT
5 DISORDERS AND TO PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR THOSE AFFLICTED WITH
6 MOVEMENT 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
19 United States veterans health administration and two others
20 with 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
23 New 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
15 New Mexico with access to a teaching hospital that houses a
16 neuroscience center;

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

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of regents of the
24 university of New Mexico be requested to house the movement
25 disorders center in a facility that has physical access that

1 is appropriate for providing care to patients with movement
2 disorders; and

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

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

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