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SENATE MEMORIAL 4

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, movement disorders are mostly chronic,

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1 progressive brain disorders for which there is currently no
2 cure; and

3 WHEREAS, a movement disorders center provides advanced
4 diagnosis and interdisciplinary care for movement disorders
5 patients as well as support for caregivers; and

6 WHEREAS, a movement disorders center provides a means to
7 minimize and manage the morbidity associated with movement
8 disorders; and

9 WHEREAS, movement disorders patients require an accurate
10 early diagnosis, best medical management practices and a
11 multidisciplinary approach to address the myriad chronic issues
12 that patients and caregivers face daily; and

13 WHEREAS, at a movement disorders center, patients may
14 receive care from neurologists having movement disorders
15 specialty certification, as well as from psychiatrists,
16 neurosurgeons and other physicians; and

17 WHEREAS, at a movement disorders center, movement
18 disorders patients routinely receive care from allied health
19 professionals such as neuropsychologists and physical,
20 occupational and speech therapists; and

21 WHEREAS, medical treatments for movement disorders include
22 medications that require sophisticated individual management
23 and a team approach; and

24 WHEREAS, there are currently only three neurologists in
25 New Mexico who have fellowship training in movement disorders:

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1 one who is limited largely to serving the United States
2 veterans health administration and two others with only limited
3 availability for new patients; and

4 WHEREAS, it can take up to nine months to get a first
5 appointment with a movement disorders specialist in New Mexico;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the symptoms of patients who experience long
8 delays in gaining access to specialty movement disorders care
9 often worsen considerably during their waits; and

10 WHEREAS, there are access disparities for movement
11 disorders care in New Mexico as, very often, those patients who
12 can afford it and are mobile enough to travel seek care for
13 their movement disorders in other states where adequate
14 movement disorders care is available, such as Colorado or
15 Arizona, while the average movement disorders patient does not
16 have the ability to obtain care out of state; and

17 WHEREAS, Colorado and Arizona both have many movement
18 disorders centers, which are often located at teaching
19 hospitals that are specially able to treat these movement
20 disorders and provide a comprehensive level of care that is not
21 available in New Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico provides New Mexico
23 with access to a teaching hospital that houses a neuroscience
24 center;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

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1 OF NEW MEXICO that the board of regents of the university of
2 New Mexico be requested to devise a plan to create a movement
3 disorders center that is staffed with movement disorders
4 specialists with fellowship training and provides support and
5 allied health care to patients; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of regents of the
7 university of New Mexico be requested to house the movement
8 disorders center in a facility that has physical access that is
9 appropriate for providing care to patients with movement
10 disorders; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of regents of the
12 university of New Mexico be requested to report its plan for
13 creating a movement disorders center at the university of New
14 Mexico to the legislative health and human services committee
15 by November 1, 2018; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the president of the board of regents of the
18 university of New Mexico, the president of the university of
19 New Mexico, the chancellor for health sciences of the
20 university of New Mexico and the chair and vice chair of the
21 legislative health and human services committee.