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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 1
54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY
Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE THE BONE HEALTH
TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE NEW MEXICO'S CURRENT APPROACHES TO
PROMOTING BONE HEALTH AND POST-FRACTURE CARE, TO FACILITATE
IMPLEMENTATION OF FRACTURE LIAISON SERVICES IN NEW MEXICO
HOSPITALS, TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY
OUTREACH AND EDUCATION THROUGH TELEHEALTH AND TO EXPLORE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES AND RESOURCES TO IMPROVE OSTEOPOROSIS
CARE IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, osteoporotic fractures can lead to disability,
loss of independence and death; and

WHEREAS, the national osteoporosis foundation estimates
that three hundred seventy thousand men and women in New Mexico
have osteoporosis or low bone density; and

WHEREAS, the department of health reports that there are

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1 more than five thousand fracture-related hospitalizations among
2 adults sixty-five years and older each year; and

3 WHEREAS, individuals with diabetes are at particularly
4 high risk for osteoporotic fractures; and

5 WHEREAS, bone density testing is recommended by the
6 national osteoporosis foundation, and the United States
7 preventive services task force has issued a highly ranked "B
8 recommendation" for all women age sixty-five years or older and
9 for younger postmenopausal women with risk factors; and

10 WHEREAS, the national osteoporosis foundation recommends
11 bone density testing for all men age seventy years and older or
12 for men ages fifty to seventy years who have risk factors such
13 as a recent history of non-traumatic fracture; and

14 WHEREAS, many medicines are available to improve bone
15 strength and prevent fractures in at-risk individuals; and

16 WHEREAS, fewer than one percent of older adults on
17 osteoporosis medication will have serious side effects, but of
18 every one thousand postmenopausal women, five hundred will
19 suffer an osteoporotic fracture in their remaining lifetimes
20 without medication to reduce the risk; and

21 WHEREAS, there are effective interventions to prevent
22 fractures and improve quality of life, including evidence-based
23 community fall prevention programs and physical therapy for
24 pain management, fall risk reduction, spine sparing education,
25 pain management, good nutrition, healthy lifestyle and

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1 pharmacologic therapies; and

2 WHEREAS, most patients with fractures are currently not
3 receiving treatment to reduce the risk of another fracture; and

4 WHEREAS, a hospital-based fracture liaison service can
5 provide a systematic way of identifying patients with
6 fractures, monitoring their progress after hospital discharge
7 and ensuring that these patients receive appropriate care to
8 reduce fracture risk and promote injury prevention; and

9 WHEREAS, only a few New Mexico health care delivery
10 systems currently have a fracture liaison service; and

11 WHEREAS, many New Mexico health care professionals do not
12 have the skills to manage patients with complex skeletal
13 disorders; and

14 WHEREAS, the "bone health TeleECHO" program, developed
15 through collaboration by the university of New Mexico health
16 sciences center and the osteoporosis foundation of New Mexico,
17 offers a weekly videoconferencing clinic for health care
18 professionals to learn about treating osteoporosis and to
19 become local bone health experts in their communities; and

20 WHEREAS, the osteoporosis foundation of New Mexico is
21 dedicated to increasing public awareness and education about
22 osteoporosis and has partnered with the department of health
23 and its office of injury prevention, the aging and long-term
24 services department and the New Mexico adult falls prevention
25 coalition;

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of health be requested
3 to convene the "bone health task force" to evaluate New
4 Mexico's approach to promoting bone health, including
5 evaluation of community outreach, consumer and health care
6 professional education, post-fracture care and the development
7 of facilities and resources to improve the care of osteoporosis
8 in New Mexico; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of health be
10 requested to invite to participate in the bone health task
11 force representatives from the office of the governor, the
12 office of the lieutenant governor, the department of health,
13 the aging and long-term services department, the New Mexico
14 adult falls prevention coalition, the higher education
15 department, the university of New Mexico, the federal Indian
16 health service, tribal injury prevention programs, the United
17 States department of veterans affairs, New Mexico health care
18 delivery systems, the New Mexico hospital association, the
19 emergency medical systems bureau of the department of health
20 and the osteoporosis foundation of New Mexico; health care
21 professionals; and designees appointed by the New Mexico
22 legislative council; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bone health task force be
24 requested to produce a comprehensive written report and present
25 its findings and recommendations to the legislative health and

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1 human services committee by November 1, 2019; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bone health task force be
3 requested to examine how New Mexico hospitals engage in post-
4 fracture care to reduce the risk of future fractures; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bone health task force be
6 requested to include in its report a section on currently
7 available fracture liaison service programs in the state and
8 recommendations for effective change; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bone health task force be
10 requested to include in its report a section on currently
11 available community-based programming to support bone health
12 and fall prevention; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bone health task force be
14 requested to consider strategies to leverage the university of
15 New Mexico's bone health TeleECHO program to promote and expand
16 capacity to deliver best practice skeletal health care
17 throughout New Mexico; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bone health task force be
19 requested to place special emphasis on raising bone health
20 awareness, increasing access to evidence-based community
21 programming and establishing short- and long-term
22 recommendations to reduce the impact of osteoporosis on the
23 people of New Mexico by using cost-effective initiatives; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of aging and long-

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1 term services, the secretary of health, the secretary of human
2 services, the secretary of Indian affairs, the secretary of
3 public safety, the secretary of veterans' services, the
4 department of health's injury prevention program and the
5 assistant dean of clinical affairs at the university of New
6 Mexico school of medicine.

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