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HOUSE MEMORIAL 104

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Deborah A. Armstrong

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 23, 2016, "MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK" IN NEW
MEXICO.

WHEREAS, malnutrition awareness week is taking place
nationally from September 19 through September 23, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the observance of malnutrition awareness week was
first established in 2012 by the American society for
parenteral and enteral nutrition, also known as "A.S.P.E.N.";
and

WHEREAS, A.S.P.E.N. has played a leading role in drawing
attention to malnutrition, understanding that awareness is an
important step toward treating the condition; and

WHEREAS, A.S.P.E.N. defines malnutrition as an "acute,
subacute or chronic state of poor nutrition", and it can be the

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1 result of either inadequate or unbalanced nutrition; and

2 WHEREAS, even overweight individuals can be malnourished
3 if they are not receiving proper nutrients; and

4 WHEREAS, malnutrition can cause the loss of lean body
5 mass, and that loss can affect recovery from surgery, illness
6 or disease; and

7 WHEREAS, malnutrition is particularly prevalent in
8 vulnerable groups such as older adults, hospital patients and
9 minority populations; and

10 WHEREAS, statistics show higher incidences of such severe
11 chronic diseases as diabetes, kidney disease and cardiovascular
12 disease among individuals who are malnourished; and

13 WHEREAS, many health experts agree that the quality of
14 nutrition has a direct impact on an individual's health and
15 that good nutrition can reduce medical costs by helping to keep
16 people healthy and out of institutionalized care; and

17 WHEREAS, two important tools in combating malnutrition are
18 nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition, through which
19 individuals at risk are administered food and fluids to support
20 their metabolism; and

21 WHEREAS, the benefits of nutritional screening and
22 therapeutic nutrition are myriad, yet they are not routine
23 practices across the spectrum of health care; and

24 WHEREAS, the New Mexico academy of nutrition and dietetics
25 considers access to nutritional screening and therapeutic

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1 nutrition essential to restoring lean body mass, improving
2 clinical outcomes, reducing health care costs and promoting
3 good health; and

4 WHEREAS, by gaining a more thorough understanding of
5 malnutrition, New Mexico residents are able to better safeguard
6 their health and to seek effective treatments; and

7 WHEREAS, all those involved in sharing information about
8 malnutrition are deserving of support;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO THAT the governor be
11 requested to proclaim September 19 through September 23, 2016,
12 as "Malnutrition Awareness Week" in New Mexico; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the governor and the chief executive officer of
15 the American society of parenteral and enteral nutrition.

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