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HOUSE MEMORIAL 13

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024**

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson and Eleanor Chávez and Kathleen Cates  
and Cristina Parajón

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 12, 2024 "PUBLIC HEALTH DAY" IN THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, public health promotes and protects the health of  
people and the communities where they live, learn, work and  
play; and

WHEREAS, public health organizations shepherded New  
Mexicans through the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic,  
including vaccine promotion and delivery that resulted in over  
seventy-five percent of New Mexicans being vaccinated against  
the coronavirus disease 2019; and

WHEREAS, place-based public and community health  
organizations play a critical role in identifying the needs and  
priorities of the communities most impacted by dire health  
inequities; and

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1           WHEREAS, place-based public and community health  
2 organizations create, promote and carry out programs and  
3 strategies that connect New Mexicans to essential resources and  
4 are the backbone of New Mexico's public health infrastructure;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, the New Mexico public health association was  
7 established in 1917; and

8           WHEREAS, the New Mexico public health association is the  
9 state affiliate of the American public health association and  
10 has built the capacity of New Mexico's public health workers  
11 and advanced health equity in New Mexico for one hundred seven  
12 years; and

13           WHEREAS, the New Mexico public health association is  
14 forging strong partnerships with community organizations to  
15 center public health workforce development in partnerships and  
16 paradigms that acknowledge and educate on the harmful legacies  
17 of settler colonialism, genocide and racism and the communities  
18 most impacted by health inequities; and

19           WHEREAS, the New Mexico public health association and the  
20 New Mexico alliance of health councils have a close ongoing  
21 partnership; and

22           WHEREAS, New Mexico's community health councils were  
23 established under the auspices of the 1991 County Maternal and  
24 Child Health Plan Act; and

25           WHEREAS, the County Maternal and Child Health Plan Act was

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1 amended in 2007 to include community health councils located in  
2 tribal communities; and

3 WHEREAS, the County Maternal and Child Health Plan Act was  
4 repealed and, in 2019, the County and Tribal Health Councils  
5 Act was passed to update roles and functions for tribal and  
6 county health councils and the department of health; and

7 WHEREAS, for thirty-three years, New Mexico's county and  
8 tribal health councils have served the state with dedication  
9 and distinction to improve the health of all New Mexicans; and

10 WHEREAS, health councils continue to serve as the hub of  
11 public health systems in counties and tribal communities and  
12 produce assessments and plans that identify local health  
13 strengths, needs, priorities and strategies; and

14 WHEREAS, community health councils have developed and  
15 implemented programs and services to address critical health  
16 needs and to increase access to essential services; and

17 WHEREAS, community health councils have worked with  
18 communities to attract federal, state and private funding to  
19 communities to support health programs and services; and

20 WHEREAS, community health councils continue to provide  
21 accurate, up-to-date information on local health needs to state  
22 agencies and nonprofit service providers; and

23 WHEREAS, community health councils have provided planning  
24 and coordination of local health services that result in  
25 reducing duplication and filling gaps in services; and

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1           WHEREAS, the New Mexico alliance of health councils has  
2 provided critical coordination, capacity building and advocacy  
3 on behalf of tribal and county health councils; and

4           WHEREAS, the work and role of the New Mexico alliance of  
5 health councils have allowed tribal and county health councils  
6 to carry out high-quality assessments, programs and services;

7           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 12,  
9 2024 be proclaimed "Public Health Day" in the house of  
10 representatives; and

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico's public health  
12 organizations, including the New Mexico public health  
13 association and the New Mexico alliance of health councils and  
14 its constituent county and tribal health councils, along with  
15 critical community-based organizations, be recognized and  
16 celebrated for their accomplishments and their combined one  
17 hundred forty years of service in improving community well-  
18 being and advancing health equity among the people of New  
19 Mexico; and

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of health for  
22 appropriate distribution.