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HOUSE MEMORIAL 40

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

INTRODUCED BY

Emily Kane

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION STUDY THE DISABILITY IMPACT OF POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER ON CERTAIN PROFESSIONS AND REVIEW CURRENT PRESUMPTIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.

WHEREAS, approximately eight million American adults, about three and one-half percent of the population, have been diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder, also called PTSD; and

WHEREAS, PTSD can significantly impair a person's life; and

WHEREAS, people with PTSD may experience flashbacks to traumatic events, have trouble sleeping, have frightening thoughts and have nightmares; and

WHEREAS, people with PTSD may easily be startled, causing

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1 them to feel on edge or to have angry outbursts; and

2 WHEREAS, PTSD often leaves people feeling emotionally  
3 numb, possibly experiencing a loss of interest in activities  
4 that were once enjoyable and leaving a lingering feeling of  
5 guilt or depression; and

6 WHEREAS, having PTSD affects not only the individual, but  
7 also the individual's entire family; and

8 WHEREAS, people who work in certain professional fields,  
9 including emergency responders, may be more likely to  
10 experience PTSD; and

11 WHEREAS, first responders often put their lives at risk  
12 and immerse themselves in horrific situations in the service of  
13 others; and

14 WHEREAS, many occupations have a long history of  
15 presumptive illnesses; and

16 WHEREAS, emergency responding has an increased risk of  
17 certain associated illnesses, including infectious diseases,  
18 cancers and cardiovascular illness and injury;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the workers'  
21 compensation administration be requested to study PTSD and its  
22 relationship to job-related health problems for first  
23 responders; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the workers' compensation  
25 administration review the current presumptions for first

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1 responders, including eleven cancers, five infectious diseases  
2 and various cardiovascular provisions, that are presumed to be  
3 job-related for the purposes of making a claim to the workers'  
4 compensation administration; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the workers' compensation  
6 administration allow all interested persons representing  
7 workers and employers to participate and provide  
8 recommendations and input into this study; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the workers' compensation  
10 administration be requested to provide recommendations to the  
11 legislature; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the workers' compensation administration.