SENATE MEMORIAL 25

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Kay Papen

A MEMORIAL

CELEBRATING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH OF
DIMES; DECLARING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2013, "MARCH OF DIMES
DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes has dedicated seventy-five
years to helping pregnant women reach full term and deliver
healthy babies; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes helps moms have healthy babies
through the contribution of resources for research and medical
breakthroughs and the provision of education, outreach and
vaccines; and

WHEREAS, more than four million babies are born in the
United States each year; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes facilitates preventive
interventions to effectively prevent premature birth, which

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affects five hundred thousand families each year; and

WHEREAS, birth defects are the leading cause of infant death and a major cause of pediatric hospitalization in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, birth defects account for twenty-six percent of infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, each year in New Mexico, approximately six hundred infants, or about one infant out of every forty-five infants born, are born with a major birth defect and another thirty to forty infants are born with congenital hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of cleft lip and cleft palate in New Mexico is rapidly increasing; and

WHEREAS, babies born with birth defects have a greater chance of illness and long-term disability than babies without birth defects, and they often require additional health care and other services to support their growth and development; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, birth defects have been a reportable condition in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes helped establish the New Mexico birth defects registry, a birth defects surveillance system enacted in 2012 and maintained by the family health bureau of the department of health; and

WHEREAS, having a birth defects surveillance system has enabled the state to:

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1   A.   monitor the prevalence of birth defects by

2   identifying clusters of occurrences that should be

3   investigated;

4   B.   focus on and promote prevention activities;

5   C.   assess the impact of screening and prevention

6   practices; and

7   D.   link children to necessary services, such as

8   case management for those with complex medical needs, and

9   health care and early intervention services to maximize

10   children's development potential; and

11   WHEREAS, having this system in place has raised awareness

12   of the importance of a birth defects surveillance system; and

13   WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is an active member of the

14   state's infant mortality team, which pulls together all state

15   agencies to address the health and well-being of mothers and

16   babies in New Mexico;

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

18   OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the March of Dime's seventy-

19   five years of service to improve prenatal and postnatal health

20   care through research, vaccines, medical breakthroughs,

21   education and outreach; and

22   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wednesday, January 30, 2013,

23   be declared "March of Dimes Day" in the senate; and

24   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

25   transmitted to the secretary of health and the state director

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of program services and government affairs for the March of

Dimes.

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