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SENATE MEMORIAL 36

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

INTRODUCED BY

Richard C. Martinez

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 3, 2010 AS "OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY" AT THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, the senate supports state overdose prevention services; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, approximately four hundred people in New Mexico died of accidental drug overdoses, the majority of which were preventable; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, unintentional drug overdoses accounted for nine percent of life lost due to premature death in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, according to the department of health, New Mexico's prescription opiate and heroin-related drug overdose death rates are significantly higher than the national average; and

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1           WHEREAS, state and local public health agencies have long  
2 supported effective overdose prevention programming; and

3           WHEREAS, since 2001, after the enactment of legislation  
4 authorizing the administration of opioid antagonists, naloxone,  
5 a medication that reverses opioid overdoses, has been  
6 distributed to people at high risk of overdose in New Mexico;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, naloxone is a critical component of any effective  
9 overdose prevention and response program; and

10          WHEREAS, participants in programs incorporating naloxone  
11 report an increased connection to safety and personal health  
12 information and resources; and

13          WHEREAS, the frequency of heroin use decreased among  
14 opioid users in a pilot study of naloxone distribution; and

15          WHEREAS, according to the department of health, about  
16 three hundred people reported using naloxone to save lives in  
17 2008 alone; and

18          WHEREAS, the state legislature approved the passage of  
19 legislation in 2007 granting limited immunity from drug  
20 possession charges for witnesses who call 911 to save the life  
21 of an overdose victim; and

22          WHEREAS, families impacted by substance abuse should  
23 receive education on overdose prevention; and

24          WHEREAS, overdose prevention awareness is regarded as an  
25 important endeavor internationally, with August 31 being

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recognized as "International Overdose Awareness Day"; and

WHEREAS, drug-related overdose prevention services and programs are essential to saving lives in New Mexico;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 3, 2010 be recognized as "Overdose Awareness Day" at the senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the drug policy alliance and to the harm reduction program manager at the department of health.