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SENATE MEMORIAL 34

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Dede Feldman

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES TO
CONVENE A NEW MEXICO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, fatal
disease of the brain that destroys mental and physical
functions; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is not a part of the normal
aging process; and

WHEREAS, there is no known cure for Alzheimer's disease;
and

WHEREAS, every sixty-nine seconds, someone in America
develops Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, an estimated five million four hundred thousand
Americans now live with Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that by mid-century,

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1 someone will develop Alzheimer's disease every thirty-three
2 seconds; and

3 WHEREAS, data indicate that Hispanics are about one and
4 one-half times as likely to have Alzheimer's disease or other
5 dementia as older non-Hispanic whites; and

6 WHEREAS, by the fall of 2011, thirty states and the
7 District of Columbia had developed or were in the process of
8 developing state plans in response to the prevalence of
9 Alzheimer's disease; and

10 WHEREAS, between 2010 and 2025, New Mexico is projected to
11 experience a fifty-nine percent growth rate of people with this
12 devastating disease; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico will soon have forty thousand
14 residents diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
16 OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of aging and long-term
17 services be requested to convene a New Mexico Alzheimer's
18 disease task force to assess the impact of and make policy
19 recommendations regarding Alzheimer's disease in the state; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
21 the following members:

22 A. the secretary of health or the secretary's
23 designee;

24 B. the secretary of veterans' services or the
25 secretary's designee;

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1 C. the secretary of human services or the
2 secretary's designee;

3 D. the secretary of Indian affairs or the
4 secretary's designee;

5 E. one individual living with Alzheimer's disease,
6 appointed by the governor;

7 F. one individual who serves as a caregiver to an
8 individual living with Alzheimer's disease, appointed by the
9 governor;

10 G. one representative of the nursing facility
11 industry, appointed by the New Mexico health care association;

12 H. one representative of the assisted living
13 industry, appointed by the assisted living services
14 organization;

15 I. one representative of the adult day care
16 services industry, appointed by the New Mexico association of
17 adult day care;

18 J. one representative of the hospice and home
19 health care industry, appointed by the New Mexico association
20 for home and hospice care;

21 K. one representative of the medical care provider
22 community, appointed by the director of the university of New
23 Mexico geriatric education center;

24 L. one individual who engages in research related
25 to Alzheimer's disease, appointed by the Alzheimer's

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1 association;

2 M. one representative of AARP, appointed by AARP;

3 N. one representative of the department of health's
4 office of primary care and rural health, appointed by the
5 director of the office of primary care and rural health;

6 O. one representative of the developmental
7 disabilities planning council, appointed by the developmental
8 disabilities planning council;

9 P. one representative of the Alzheimer's
10 association, appointed by the Alzheimer's association;

11 Q. the director of the medical assistance division
12 of the human services department or the director's designee;

13 R. one representative from each of the four area
14 agencies on aging, appointed by the bureau chief of the senior
15 services bureau of the aging and long-term services department;

16 S. one representative of the program for all-
17 inclusive care for the elderly in New Mexico, appointed by
18 total community care of New Mexico; and

19 T. one representative representing law enforcement,
20 appointed by the secretary of public safety; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include an
22 examination of the following matters in its assessments and
23 recommendations:

24 A. trends and needs among the population of
25 individuals living with Alzheimer's disease in the state,

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1 including the changing population living with dementia; the
2 state's role in long-term care; family caregiver support; and
3 the available assistance to individuals living with Alzheimer's
4 disease and with developmental disabilities;

5 B. the type, cost and availability of services for
6 individuals living with dementia;

7 C. dementia-specific training requirements for
8 those working with individuals living with dementia;

9 D. the quality care measures for providers who
10 deliver services to individuals living with Alzheimer's
11 disease;

12 E. the capacity of public safety and law
13 enforcement to respond to individuals living with Alzheimer's
14 disease;

15 F. the availability of home- and community-based
16 resources for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease;

17 G. the availability of respite care to assist
18 family members who are caring for individuals living with
19 Alzheimer's disease;

20 H. an inventory of long-term care dementia care
21 units;

22 I. the adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric-
23 psychiatric units for persons living with behavior disorders
24 associated with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia;

25 J. assisted living options for individuals living

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1 with dementia;

2 K. state support of Alzheimer's disease research
3 through New Mexico universities and other resources; and

4 L. state policies or resources that are needed,
5 including directions for the provision of clear and coordinated
6 services and supports to individuals and families living with
7 Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, as well as
8 strategies to address any identified gaps in services; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of aging and
10 long-term services or the secretary's designee be requested to
11 convene the task force by April 30, 2012; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aging and long-term
13 services department be requested to provide the facilities and
14 administrative support that are necessary for the task force's
15 work; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
17 hold public meetings and use technology, such as webcasting, to
18 gather feedback and recommendations from individuals and
19 families affected by Alzheimer's disease and the general
20 public; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force
22 be requested to serve without compensation, except any per diem
23 or expense reimbursement to which they are individually
24 entitled as members of their respective constituent
25 organizations; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
2 submit by November 1, 2013 a report of its findings and date-
3 specific recommendations to the governor and to the legislative
4 health and human services committee; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to each official or organization being requested to
7 serve on or select a member of the task force and to the chair
8 and vice chair of the legislative health and human services
9 committee.