

1 A MEMORIAL

2 COMMEMORATING LYNN PIERSON AND ERIN ARMSTRONG FOR THEIR
3 COURAGE AND STRENGTH TO ADVOCATE FOR LEGAL ACCESS TO MEDICAL
4 MARIJUANA FOR THE SICK AND DYING IN NEW MEXICO AND
5 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 13, 2010 AS "MEDICAL MARIJUANA DAY" IN
6 THE SENATE.

7
8 WHEREAS, Lynn Pierson, an Albuquerque cancer patient,
9 advocated for the passage of a model medical marijuana
10 program in New Mexico in 1978; and

11 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature passed the
12 Controlled Substances Therapeutic Research Act in 1978,
13 establishing the Lynn Pierson therapeutic research program as
14 a result of Lynn's advocacy efforts; and

15 WHEREAS, the Lynn Pierson therapeutic research program
16 ended in 1986 because of lack of funding; and

17 WHEREAS, Erin Armstrong advocated tirelessly for the
18 passage of New Mexico's new medical marijuana law; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico's medical marijuana law took effect
20 on July 1, 2007, after enactment of the Lynn and Erin
21 Compassionate Use Act; and

22 WHEREAS, in January 2009, the department of health
23 issued rules governing production, distribution and use of
24 medicinal marijuana under state law; and

25 WHEREAS, more than one thousand patients are currently

1 protected to possess and use medical marijuana for relief in
2 New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, five nonprofit organizations have been licensed
4 by the department of health to ensure that registered
5 patients receive a safe and secure supply of their medicine;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the department of health accepts applications
8 for registry identification cards for possession and use of
9 medical marijuana to persons with serious and debilitating
10 medical conditions, including acquired immunodeficiency
11 syndrome, human immunodeficiency virus infections, cancer,
12 epilepsy, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury
13 with intractable spasticity, admittance into hospice care,
14 painful peripheral neuropathy, intractable nausea or
15 vomiting, severe anorexia or cachexia, hepatitis C while
16 currently receiving antiviral treatment, Crohn's disease,
17 posttraumatic stress disorder, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis,
18 also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and severe chronic pain;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, any medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy or
21 nurse practitioner licensed to prescribe medicine in New
22 Mexico is eligible to write a recommendation for qualified
23 patients to register in the state's medical cannabis program;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the Obama administration released new

1 guidelines in October 2009, directing federal drug agents not
2 to arrest or harass medical marijuana patients and their
3 sanctioned suppliers in states that have approved the
4 medicine as long as the patients and suppliers are following
5 their state's medical marijuana law; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico law enforcement agencies recognize
7 that state law protects patients who have registered with the
8 department of health for possession of medical marijuana in
9 the medical cannabis program; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico is among fourteen states that have
11 passed laws that permit individuals living with a serious or
12 chronic illness to use medical marijuana as recommended by a
13 licensed physician and as used according to state and local
14 regulation; and

15 WHEREAS, the states of New Jersey, Rhode Island and
16 Maine have passed medical marijuana statutes modeled after
17 the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act; and

18 WHEREAS, the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act passed
19 by the legislature has become the model legislation for the
20 nation;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Lynn Pierson and Erin Armstrong be
23 commemorated for their courage to advocate for legal access
24 to medical marijuana for the sick and dying in New Mexico and
25 that February 13, 2010 be recognized as "Medical Marijuana

1 Day" in the senate; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the director of the drug policy alliance, the
4 harm reduction program manager and the coordinator of the
5 medical cannabis program at the department of health, to the
6 family of Lynn Pierson and to Erin Armstrong. _____

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