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HOUSE MEMORIAL 24

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY
Manuel Herrera

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONSIDERATION OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE NEEDS OF
SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS EMPLOYED BY PRIVATE SCHOOL BUS
CONTRACTORS.

WHEREAS, it is the health policy of the state of New
Mexico that all New Mexicans have access to affordable,
culturally appropriate basic health services regardless of
their socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, roughly twenty-one percent of New Mexicans have
no health insurance; and

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Memorial 48 of this second session
of the forty-fourth legislature requests a legislative study
of the existing health care delivery and finance system in
New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, public school employees have access to health
care insurance through the New Mexico public school insurance

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1 authority; and

2 WHEREAS, lower-paid school employees have insurance
3 available through the authority and contribute a smaller
4 percentage of their premium costs than higher paid employees;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, approximately two-thirds of our school bus
7 drivers are school employees and eligible for this health
8 insurance plan; and

9 WHEREAS, most employees of school bus contractors are
10 not eligible for low-cost public school health insurance and
11 are unable to afford private health insurance; and

12 WHEREAS, there exists a great inequity between school
13 bus drivers employed by school districts and school bus
14 drivers employed by private school bus contractors;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
17 appropriate interim legislative committee to which the New
18 Mexico legislative council assigns the study required by
19 Senate Joint Memorial 48, if passed, consider in its review
20 of health care access the health insurance needs of employees
21 of private school bus contractors; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council for
24 forwarding to the appropriate interim legislative committee.
25