

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 50

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DESIGNATE
APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEES TO EXAMINE THE NEW
MEXICO HEALTH SYSTEM, INCLUDING ITS ORGANIZATION, FINANCING
AND PERFORMANCE, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
LEGISLATURE.

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

WHEREAS, three hundred eighty-six thousand people in New
Mexico, roughly twenty-one percent of New Mexicans, have no
medical insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, fourteen percent of New Mexicans have reported
that they are unable to obtain primary health care services
when needed; and

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1 WHEREAS, health care services represent the second
2 largest general fund expenditure and the mechanisms of the
3 organization and delivery of publicly funding health services
4 are undergoing major change; and

5 WHEREAS, the legislature has expressed its concern
6 regarding the publicly financed health care system in House
7 Joint Memorial 18 from the first session of the forty-fourth
8 legislature by requesting the New Mexico health policy
9 commission to develop a strategic plan for an integrated
10 publicly funded health system and by requesting the
11 legislative finance committee to conduct a performance audit
12 of medicaid managed care; and

13 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Accountability in Government
14 Act is to provide for more cost-effective, responsive
15 government services by using the budget process and defined
16 outcomes and performance measures; and

17 WHEREAS, the public and private health care sectors'
18 financing and delivery are intricately intertwined; and

19 WHEREAS, the private sector reports inadequate revenues
20 triggering a dramatic increase in commercial insurance
21 premiums potentially resulting in more uninsured people and a
22 greater burden on government-funded services and charity
23 care; and

24 WHEREAS, there is growing discontent among both health
25 professionals and consumers with the private health care
system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW

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1 MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council designate an
2 appropriate legislative interim committee to conduct a
3 systematic assessment of the existing financing, delivery,
4 organization and performance of health care in New Mexico,
5 specifically to include:

6 A. consideration of the findings and
7 recommendations of House Joint Memorial 18 and related
8 memorials adopted in the second session of the forty-fourth
9 legislature;

10 B. assessment of the impact of recent changes in
11 the financing and delivery of health care services, in
12 particular publicly financed services, on rural and safety
13 net providers, health professionals and residents of New
14 Mexico;

15 C. review the quality of care provided, processes
16 to ensure quality of care, outcomes and accountability
17 measures;

18 D. establish performance measures for the health
19 system of New Mexico, with particular emphasis on the
20 publicly financed health care system for incorporation into
21 the performance-based budget process, and give consideration
22 to the adequacy of existing information systems to provide
23 the data; and

24 E. review the existing state and local government
25 organization of health services financing and delivery and in
doing so, consider the appropriate responsibilities of
different levels of government to determine the state

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1 government structure that would most cost-effectively and
2 efficiently accomplish the desired health care outcomes and
3 needs of the people of the state; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the designated legislative
5 committee take into consideration in its assessments and
6 formulation of recommendations the state health policy to
7 ensure accessible, available, affordable, culturally
8 appropriate basic health care services for all New Mexicans
9 regardless of financial status; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico health policy
11 commission in cooperation with the designated legislative
12 interim committee request assistance from the Robert Wood
13 Johnson foundation state initiative program, national council
14 of state legislatures and other appropriate entities; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the designated legislative
16 interim committee present its findings and recommendations to
17 the New Mexico legislative council by December 15, 2000 for
18 consideration by the first session of the forty-fifth
19 legislature; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and
22 appropriate executive agencies.