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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 82**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Fred Luna**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW THE HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS OF STAFFING PATTERNS AT DIALYSIS CENTERS.**

**WHEREAS, while many dialysis centers have eight- or ten-hour shifts for professional staff, there are also situations in which staff may be working twelve to fourteen hours on one shift; and**

**WHEREAS, the handling of patients at dialysis centers requires skilled and experienced staff who are able to give the work their full attention; and**

**WHEREAS, staff who work long hours may be tired and inattentive toward the end of very long periods and may be more prone to make mistakes; and**

**WHEREAS, while staffing patterns at dialysis centers are principally built around the uninterrupted time needed for**

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1 dialysis, the growing shortages of skilled staff may dictate  
2 longer shifts or overtime hours to meet the needs of the  
3 center, and this raises serious questions about the health and  
4 safety of dialysis patients;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express concern about the health  
7 and safety impacts of staffing patterns at dialysis centers  
8 that may leave staff tired, inattentive and more prone to  
9 mistakes that affect the health and safety of the patients;  
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be  
12 requested to review the staffing patterns and length of shifts  
13 at dialysis centers in the state to determine whether the  
14 staffing is adversely impacting patient health or safety; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health  
16 report its findings and any recommendations to the appropriate  
17 legislative interim committee; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
19 given to the secretary of health and that the secretary  
20 distribute copies to all dialysis centers.