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1 fatalities with a death rate that is fifty percent higher than
2 the national rate; first in the nation in pedestrian
3 fatalities; fourth in the nation in motor vehicle-related
4 fatalities; and fifth in the nation in deaths caused by
5 suicide; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the highest mortality rate for
7 traumatic brain injury in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, there is a continuing loss of physicians,
9 specifically neurosurgeons, who are needed to provide care to
10 traumatic brain injury victims; and

11 WHEREAS, there are fewer than seven neurosurgeons
12 responding to trauma or emergency room calls in the state, but
13 the optimum number for New Mexico's population is thirty-five;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the residents and visitors to New Mexico who are
16 seriously injured are entitled to the highest level of care,
17 and it has been repeatedly demonstrated that trauma care
18 effectively reduces injury mortality and morbidity; and

19 WHEREAS, there are thirty-four acute care hospitals in New
20 Mexico, but only three acute care hospitals are designated by
21 the department of health as trauma centers, leaving
22 significantly large areas of the state with no hospitals
23 actively participating in the New Mexico trauma system;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a statewide trauma system study

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1 committee be created to study the New Mexico statewide trauma
2 system; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide trauma system
4 study committee determine the financial and professional needs
5 of health care facilities that are necessary to provide
6 accepted levels of care statewide for trauma victims; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide trauma system
8 study committee identify the number of physicians necessary to
9 fully staff an adequate statewide trauma system; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health, the
11 human services department, the New Mexico health policy
12 commission, the insurance division of the public regulation
13 commission and the statewide emergency medical services
14 advisory committee each designate one member to serve on the
15 statewide trauma system study committee; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide trauma system
17 study committee determine the feasibility of expanding medicaid
18 eligibility to all of those persons incurring significant
19 traumatic injury who have no other source of payment for
20 services rendered; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide trauma system
22 study committee report its recommendations to address the
23 inadequacies in the statewide trauma system, make
24 recommendations regarding the financial requirements of
25 practicing trauma medicine, the statewide personnel and

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1 facility needs of an adequate trauma system and other
2 requirements for providing services in the state and the manner
3 in which adequate participation in the New Mexico trauma system
4 can be ensured; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the department of health, the human services
7 department, the New Mexico health policy commission, the
8 insurance division of the public regulation commission and the
9 statewide emergency medical services advisory committee.

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