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SENATE MEMORIAL 32

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

INTRODUCED BY

John Pinto

A MEMORIAL

**ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE
CONSTRUCTION FUNDS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2002 INDIAN HEALTH
SERVICES BUDGET FOR THE RED MESA HEALTH CENTER AND STAFF
QUARTERS PLANNED TO SERVE THE FOUR CORNERS REGION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION.**

**WHEREAS, the Red Mesa health center and staff quarters
have been planned since the middle of the 1980s by the Navajo
Nation Indian health services to improve access to health care
for the ten thousand people residing in northwest New Mexico,
southeast Utah and northeast Arizona; and**

**WHEREAS, the local land users donated seventy-five acres
of land at Red Mesa, Arizona for the development of the Red
Mesa health center and staff quarters, and the site is the
demographic center of the service area; and**

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1 WHEREAS, all of the necessary documents, such as legal
2 surveys, environmental assessments, archaeological clearances
3 and other surveys and assessments have been completed and the
4 site has been legally withdrawn by the Navajo Nation for the
5 project; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States congress appropriated design
7 funds in fiscal year 2000 for the design of the Red Mesa
8 health center, the Indian health services has engaged an
9 architectural firm and the project is currently in the design
10 phase; and

11 WHEREAS, a construction manager has been employed to
12 oversee the construction of the project once a design is
13 completed and construction funds are appropriated; and

14 WHEREAS, the Red Mesa health center, when completed, will
15 provide adult and pediatric medical services, diagnosis and
16 laboratory services, short-stay nursing beds and dental,
17 physical therapy and twenty-four-hour emergency care; and

18 WHEREAS, limited basic outpatient services are currently
19 available at the Indian health services Teecospos clinic in
20 Arizona and inpatient services are provided at the Indian
21 health services hospital in Shiprock, New Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, Indian health services planned the Red Mesa
23 health center with ninety-three units of staff quarters due to
24 the remote nature of the site and because it is recognized
25 that availability of housing is critical for recruitment and

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1 retention of medical doctors, nurses and other health
2 professionals on the Navajo Nation, and it is extremely
3 important that the staff quarters be constructed concurrently
4 with the health center to ensure that the clinic will be
5 adequately staffed when it is completed;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
7 OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress, through the New
8 Mexico, Arizona and Utah congressional delegations, be urged
9 to appropriate forty-eight million dollars (\$48,000,000) in
10 fiscal year 2002 as part of the Indian health services budget
11 for construction of the Red Mesa health center and staff
12 quarters, planned to serve the Four Corners region of the
13 Navajo Nation; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted expeditiously to the United States congressional
16 delegations of New Mexico, Arizona and Utah so that the
17 appropriation request can be included in the fiscal year 2002
18 Indian health services budget.