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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 49**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Danice R. Picraux**

**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND  
THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE RETIREE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY TO PARTICIPATE IN  
A MULTISTATE BULK PURCHASING COOPERATIVE TO OBTAIN THE MOST  
FAVORABLE PRICES FOR PHARMACEUTICALS AND TO ALLOW CERTAIN NON-  
MEMBER SENIORS TO PURCHASE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AT DISCOUNTED  
PRICES.**

**WHEREAS, senior citizens in New Mexico who lack  
prescription drug coverage pay the highest prices for  
prescription drugs; and**

**WHEREAS, these senior citizens take an average of twenty-  
nine prescription drugs per year, and may pay up to one  
thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200) per year out of pocket  
to pay for these prescriptions; and**

**WHEREAS, the medicare program, which provides health  
insurance for senior citizens, does not include an outpatient**

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1 prescription drug benefit; and

2 WHEREAS, access to discounted prices for prescription  
3 drugs is very limited for seniors who lack supplemental health  
4 insurance; and

5 WHEREAS, the retiree health care authority is already  
6 engaged in negotiating discounted prices for prescription  
7 drugs for retired public employees; and

8 WHEREAS, there are several multistate bulk purchasing  
9 cooperatives that work together to achieve better discounts  
10 and to benefit larger populations of people through the  
11 discounts; and

12 WHEREAS, the retiree health care authority is currently  
13 working with one multistate purchasing cooperative to achieve  
14 better discounts for its members;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the retiree health care authority be  
17 requested to study all existing multistate purchasing  
18 cooperatives, including the northern New England tri-state  
19 coalition, the northeast legislative association on  
20 prescription drug pricing, the Massachusetts alliance for  
21 pharmaceutical buying and the pharmacy working group, to  
22 determine the potential for savings and discounts in  
23 purchasing pharmaceuticals; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the retiree health care  
25 authority join the most advantageous multistate effort that

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1 will provide the best discounted prices to persons other than  
2 those currently being served by the retiree health care  
3 authority; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the retiree health care  
5 authority develop a mechanism to allow seniors who are not  
6 public retirees to enroll and purchase prescription drugs at  
7 the negotiated, discounted prices; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the retiree health care  
9 authority report its findings to the legislative health and  
10 human services committee at its October 2002 meeting; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
12 sent to the retiree health care authority and the legislative  
13 health and human services committee.