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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 50

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

INTRODUCED BY

Ron Godbey

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

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND THE BOARD OF PHARMACY TO COOPERATE IN A STUDY OF
THE POTENTIAL FOR SAFE REUSE OF UNUSED UNIT DOSES OF PACKAGED
DRUGS.**

**WHEREAS, the cost of providing prescription drugs to New
Mexicans covered by various state and federal programs is very
high and increasing at a potentially insupportable rate; and**

**WHEREAS, many people served by these programs have
prescription drugs administered to them in individually
packaged unit doses; and**

**WHEREAS, most nursing facilities, hospitals and many
outpatient settings use these unit dose packages; and**

**WHEREAS, drugs prescribed for individual care in these
settings may go unused when patients die or are discharged**

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1 prior to the entire prescription being used; and

2 WHEREAS, state and federal laws and regulations may limit
3 or prohibit the reuse of these drugs, since they were
4 prescribed for a specific individual; and

5 WHEREAS, it would be a cost saving to the state of New
6 Mexico if it were possible to reuse these drugs; and

7 WHEREAS, it is safe to reuse drugs that have been
8 individually packaged in unit doses;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department, the
11 department of health and the board of pharmacy be requested to
12 cooperate in a study to explore the potential for safe reuse
13 of unused unit dose packaged drugs; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these agencies work with the
15 office of the attorney general and statewide associations of
16 nursing home and hospital administrators to identify
17 statutory, regulatory and practical barriers that may exist
18 that prevent the reuse of unit dose packaged drugs; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include legislative
20 recommendations to remove these barriers and permit the reuse
21 of unit dose packaged drugs; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative
23 recommendations be presented to the interim legislative health
24 and human services committee at its September 2002 meeting;
25 and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be sent to the legislative health and human services committee, the human services department, the department of health, the board of pharmacy and the office of the attorney general.

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