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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 66
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002
INTRODUCED BY
Patsy G. Trujillo Knauer

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE COST AND
HEALTH BENEFITS OF ALLOWING LICENSED NUTRITIONISTS TO BECOME
MEDICAID PROVIDERS AND TO BILL INDEPENDENTLY FOR THEIR
SERVICES.

WHEREAS, there are an estimated thirty-one thousand six
hundred New Mexico school children with documented, chronic
health problems who would benefit from access to nutrition
services within their communities; and

WHEREAS, providing nutrition care to children who are at
risk of developing obesity and type two diabetes nationwide
could save as much as one hundred billion dollars, and could
potentially save a significant amount of money in the New
Mexico medicaid budget; and

WHEREAS, the direct cost of medical care and the indirect
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1 costs of lost productivity and early death from diabetes
2 totaled seven hundred sixty-two million four hundred thousand
3 dollars (\$762, 400, 000) in New Mexico in 1997; and

4 WHEREAS, nutrition professionals in New Mexico are unable
5 to obtain independent provider numbers and provide services
6 under the medicaid program; and

7 WHEREAS, currently, eligible providers do not contract
8 with nutrition professionals to provide services to medicaid
9 beneficiaries in urban or rural areas due to low reimbursement
10 rates for nutrition services; and

11 WHEREAS, hospitals typically offer inpatient nutrition
12 services, but do not offer outpatient nutrition services;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be
15 requested to study the cost and health benefits of allowing
16 licensed nutritionists to become independent medicaid
17 providers and bill for their services and to make appropriate
18 regulatory changes to facilitate this change; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
20 specifically consider earmarking funding for nutrition
21 services within the medicaid program; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
23 report its findings and recommendations to the legislative
24 health and human services committee at its October 2002
25 meeting; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be sent to the human services department, to various nutrition partnerships groups and associations and to the legislative health and human services committee.

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