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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 50

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

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Tsosie

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE INSURANCE DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO SUPPORT AND EXPEDITE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW MEXICO TRIBAL HEALTH CARE ALLIANCE AS A LICENSED MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION FOR THE DELIVERY OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE TO AMERICAN INDIANS ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico entered into a government-to-government agreement with all tribal governments with lands located within the exterior boundaries of the state of New Mexico, pledging that the state and the tribes would work together on areas of mutual concern; and

WHEREAS, the present state medicaid program, called "Salud!", includes mandates specific to the American Indian population of New Mexico, which population is underserved by the present operation of the Salud! program; and

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1 WHEREAS, the New Mexico Tribal Health Care Alliance,
2 incorporated, herein identified as the "alliance", was
3 established under the direction of the nineteen Indian
4 pueblos, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Mescalero Apache
5 tribe, the Navajo Nation communities of Tohajiilee, Alamo and
6 Ramah and the Albuquerque urban Indian health coalition to
7 address the Salud! medicaid program mandates specific to the
8 American Indian population of New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, the alliance has moved rapidly to build an
10 infrastructure that will fulfill the specific mandates of
11 Salud! that apply to the American Indian population in the
12 state, including the establishment of a preferred provider
13 relationship with the Indian health service; and

14 WHEREAS, the goals of the alliance are to maximize the
15 involvement of tribal leaders in health issues, to serve as an
16 information source on American Indian health care issues, to
17 contract with the state to provide services funded by Salud!,
18 to partner with the Indian health service as a preferred
19 provider to maximize health care delivery to American Indian
20 people and to contract with other organizations to purchase
21 quality health care resources; and

22 WHEREAS, in order to accomplish these goals, the alliance
23 must negotiate to become a new managed care organization in
24 New Mexico with the insurance division of the public
25 regulation commission and the human services department in
order to deliver quality health care to American Indian people

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1 who are eligible to receive medicaid benefits;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the use of the Joint Powers
4 Agreements Act to produce agreements between the New Mexico
5 Tribal Health Care Alliance, incorporated, and the human
6 services department, the insurance division of the public
7 regulation commission and any other agencies whose cooperation
8 and agreement is required to enable the establishment of a new
9 managed care organization in New Mexico to deliver quality
10 health care to American Indian people who are eligible for
11 medicaid benefits be supported; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature support the
13 commitment to self-determination of the nineteen Indian
14 pueblos, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Mescalero Apache
15 tribe and the Navajo Nation communities of Tohajiilee, Alamo
16 and Ramah in concert with the Albuquerque urban Indian health
17 coalition in the creation of the alliance and the subsequent
18 working relationship that the alliance has developed with the
19 Indian health service for the purpose of providing the highest
20 quality of health care for American Indian people; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services
22 department, the insurance division of the public regulation
23 commission and any other state agencies that are necessary to
24 license a managed care organization facilitate and expedite
25 negotiations with the alliance to approve that organization as
a licensed managed care organization so that it can access

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1 medicaid funding and provide services for American Indian
2 people eligible to receive medicaid benefits; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the commissioners of the public regulation
5 commission, the superintendent of insurance, the deputy
6 secretary of human services and the director of the medical
7 assistance division of the human services department.

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