

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 70

2 45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

3 INTRODUCED BY

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8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION TO STUDY  
12 ISSUES RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF FULL HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
13 TO UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS AND THE USE OF COUNTY INDIGENT  
14 FUNDS TO ENSURE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL NEW MEXICO RESIDENTS.

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16 WHEREAS, the department of health conducted a thorough  
17 study of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity  
18 Reconciliation Act of 1996 on access to health care and public  
19 benefits for immigrants in New Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, the results of this study were presented to the  
21 interim legislative health and human services committee in  
22 November 2001; and

23 WHEREAS, among the findings of the study was that,  
24 although immigrants are eligible for basic and primary health

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1 care services through a variety of safety net health care  
2 providers in New Mexico, emergency care remains a regular  
3 source of care for many who have no regular physician and no  
4 health insurance; and

5 WHEREAS, the legislative health and human services  
6 committee heard testimony from the university of New Mexico  
7 health sciences center that it does not enroll undocumented  
8 immigrants in its primary, managed care program, "UNM cares",  
9 due to legal and financial considerations, thereby increasing  
10 the likelihood that immigrants will continue to receive their  
11 care in emergency room settings; and

12 WHEREAS, the university does provide emergency, urgent,  
13 immunization and communicable disease services to all who come  
14 to the university of New Mexico hospital, but those who seek  
15 care for other medical or chronic conditions must do so at  
16 nongovernmental facilities or federally qualified health  
17 clinics; and

18 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state of New  
19 Mexico to ensure that all immigrants receive primary care  
20 services in settings that are cost-effective and appropriate  
21 to the acuity and level of care needed; and

22 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico receives support  
23 for funding indigent health care services from Bernalillo  
24 county, but does not receive consistent, sufficient indigent  
25 funding from other counties, despite the fact that the

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1 university serves indigent populations, including immigrants,  
2 statewide; and

3 WHEREAS, the legislature wishes a closer examination of  
4 the restrictions against and the possibilities of the  
5 university of New Mexico hospital serving as fully as possible  
6 every person who needs medical care;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy  
9 commission be requested to conduct a close examination of the  
10 core issues inhibiting the university of New Mexico hospital  
11 from providing complete medical services to all in need of  
12 care, specifically including undocumented immigrants; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study consider the  
14 appropriate use of county indigent funds to ensure equitable  
15 use of all available revenue sources to care for needy New  
16 Mexico residents, including all immigrants, with or without  
17 documents; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico  
19 health sciences center, the university of New Mexico hospital,  
20 the taxation and revenue department, the state association of  
21 counties and other requested entities cooperate with the New  
22 Mexico health policy commission; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico health policy  
24 commission report its findings and progress to the interim  
25 legislative health and human services committee and to the

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1 legislative finance committee at their respective October 2002  
2 meetings; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 sent to the New Mexico health policy commission, the  
5 university of New Mexico health sciences center, the  
6 university of New Mexico hospital, the taxation and revenue  
7 department, the legislative finance committee, the legislative  
8 health and human services committee and other appropriate  
9 parties.

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