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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 21
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002
INTRODUCED BY
Pete Campos

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE POSSIBLE
CREATION OF A CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT TO ADMINISTER THE
MEDICAID PROGRAM PURSUANT TO TITLE 19 AND TITLE 21 OF THE
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.

WHEREAS, medicaid, the insurance program for forty-four million low-income people nationwide, is in fiscal crisis, and in the state over five hundred fifty thousand people are eligible for medicaid; and

WHEREAS, legislatures around the country, including this legislature, must re-evaluate how benefits and payments are made to physicians, hospitals, nursing homes and pharmacies; and

WHEREAS, medicaid spending grew by eleven percent in 2001, and in many states spending on prescription drugs is

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1 rising at an annual rate of more than twenty percent; and

2 WHEREAS, at the same time of these rising prices, the
3 revenue of New Mexico is declining, and in 1999 New Mexico's
4 per capita income ranked forty-eighth in the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, various interim and statutory committees have
6 expressed concern about the state's financial accountability
7 and statutory and regulatory compliance with federal and state
8 health programs; and

9 WHEREAS, advocates for health care consumers, disabled
10 and elderly persons, children, poor families and other
11 disenfranchised populations have similarly expressed concerns
12 about the administration of federal and state health care
13 programs; and

14 WHEREAS, the administration of health care programs has
15 become increasingly complex and expensive; and

16 WHEREAS, numerous states have reorganized their executive
17 departments responsible for providing health care to ensure
18 appropriate and accountable oversight of state expenditures;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs a clear delineation of fiscal
21 and policy responsibilities for health care administered,
22 funded and delivered by the state;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the appropriate legislative
25 committees be directed to study and assess the creation of a

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1 cabinet level department to administer medicaid and report to
2 the legislature by October 31, 2002; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council.

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