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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 81**  
**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**  
**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Michael S. Sanchez**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXAMINE APPROPRIATE**  
**METHODS OF ESTABLISHING NURSING HOME STAFFING LEVELS AND**  
**RELATED ISSUES.**

**WHEREAS, quality of care in nursing homes is a primary goal of both the state of New Mexico, which licenses such facilities, and the nursing home industry, which provides care to our senior citizens and disabled persons; and**

**WHEREAS, complaints to the ombudsman office of the state agency on aging have indicated after investigation that many concerns focus on insufficient staffing at some nursing homes; and**

**WHEREAS, there is an acknowledged shortage of nursing home health care professionals, including registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing aides**

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1 throughout the state; and

2 WHEREAS, the department of health has promulgated the  
3 state's first rules establishing minimum staffing requirements  
4 and the availability of staffing level information for  
5 consumers' and patients' families, which went into effect in  
6 August 2000; and

7 WHEREAS, the department of health has regulatory  
8 authority to ensure the quality of nursing home services and  
9 has a demonstrated commitment to improve the quality of  
10 nursing home services through collaboration with consumers,  
11 providers, advocates and other state agencies;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested  
14 to lead its long-term care regulatory quality cabinet in  
15 continued study of nursing home staffing issues, focusing on  
16 acuity-based staffing, to meet the needs of New Mexico's long-  
17 term care nursing home residents; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include review of  
19 other states' best practices, their approach to acuity-based  
20 staffing, methods for measuring compliance and definitions of  
21 direct care staff and related issues; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that participants include all key  
23 stakeholders, including the state agency on aging, the human  
24 services department, other appropriate state agencies,  
25 consumers and representation from the nursing home industry;

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1 and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health  
3 report progress and legislative recommendations on acuity-  
4 based staffing and related issues to the interim legislative  
5 health and human services committee by November 1, 2002; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 sent to the state agency on aging, the human services  
8 department, the legislative health and human services  
9 committee and other appropriate groups.

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