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SENATE MEMORIAL 36

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

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M Lopez

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WORK
TO RAISE MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENTS FOR NEW MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, the medicare reimbursement rates for health care
providers in New Mexico are among the lowest in the country;
and**

**WHEREAS, the medicare program pays health care providers
in New Mexico a lower rate than it pays states with larger
urban populations; and**

**WHEREAS, medicare spending in New Mexico averages about
sixty-seven percent of the national average; and**

**WHEREAS, congress recognized the geographic disparities
for reimbursements within the "Medicare+Choice" program by
raising the minimum reimbursement for rural and metropolitan
communities of the type and size found in New Mexico and other**

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1 western states; and

2 WHEREAS, medicare beneficiaries in New Mexico were in
3 danger of losing medicare health maintenance organization
4 coverage until congress acted to adjust reimbursement rates;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico is predominantly a rural state, and
7 medicare accounts for almost one-half of patient care in rural
8 hospitals, compared with about one-third in urban hospitals;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, medicaid and commercial insurance reimbursement
11 rates are sometimes linked to medicare reimbursement rates or
12 methodology; and

13 WHEREAS, medicare reimbursement is sometimes based on
14 historical information that quickly becomes obsolete in a
15 dynamic health care industry;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
17 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional delegation be
18 requested to initiate legislation, and urge congress to pass
19 such legislation, that would provide a more equitable medicare
20 reimbursement formula and methodology for rural areas, based
21 on current and appropriate health care economic factors; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.