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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 7

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madalena

A JOINT MEMORIAL

ENDORING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FEDERAL INDIAN HEALTH CARE
IMPROVEMENT ACT.

WHEREAS, the federal Indian Health Care Improvement Act
was enacted by congress in 1976 but expired in 2000 and has not
yet been reauthorized; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans in New Mexico and across the
nation experience the highest rates of cancer, obesity,
diabetes and heart disease yet are adversely affected by
limited access to health care due to chronic underfunding of
the Indian health service; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, through treaties entered
into with tribal entities, has the primary responsibility for
providing health care to the Native American population in New
Mexico and the United States; and

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1 WHEREAS, disparities in the health care provided to Native
2 Americans have been documented many times, including in the
3 July 2003 report of the United States commission on civil
4 rights, entitled "A Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet
5 Needs in Indian Country" and the September 2004 report of the
6 United States commission on civil rights, entitled "Broken
7 Promises: Evaluating the Native American Health Care System";
8 and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico and other states cannot bear sole
10 fiscal responsibility for providing adequate health care to
11 their Native American populations; and

12 WHEREAS, the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care
13 Improvement Act through fiscal year 2015 would provide fiscal
14 and other assistance necessary to improve the health care
15 provided to Native Americans; and

16 WHEREAS, reauthorization of the Indian Health Care
17 Improvement Act through fiscal year 2015 would be accomplished
18 by the passage of Senate Bill 1057, the Indian Health Care
19 Improvement Act Amendments of 2005; and

20 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1057 was introduced on May 17, 2005;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1057 was reported favorably out of
23 the senate committee on Indian affairs on October 27, 2005 but
24 has not been scheduled for further action;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it urge congress and the president of
2 the United States to prioritize the reauthorization of the
3 Indian Health Care Improvement Act early in the second session
4 of the one hundred ninth congress; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the legislature of the state of
6 New Mexico that it support the addition of the city of
7 Albuquerque to the list of demonstration projects in order to
8 support vital health care services serving urban Native
9 Americans; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the legislature of the state of
11 New Mexico that it support amending the current language of
12 Senate Bill 1057 under the "Limitation on Acceptance of
13 Contributions" section to encourage state-Indian health service
14 partnerships to provide eligibility workers in rural areas; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the legislature of the state of
16 New Mexico that it support providing access to residential
17 treatment centers for Native American youth and adolescents
18 close to their homes on reservations in light of the alarming
19 rates of substance abuse and suicide within this population in
20 New Mexico; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the president of the United States; the
23 secretary of the United States department of the interior; the
24 president of the Navajo Nation; the speaker of the Navajo
25 Nation council; the president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe;

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1 the president of the Jicarilla Apache Nation; the governors of
2 the nineteen Indian pueblos in New Mexico; the members of the
3 New Mexico congressional delegation; the governor; the
4 secretary of health; and the secretary of Indian affairs.

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