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HOUSE MEMORIAL 50

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

INTRODUCED BY

William "Ed" Boykin

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, IN COOPERATION WITH THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
REQUIRING COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMINATIONS FOR FIRST GRADERS
ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, vision impairment in young children can result in
permanent loss of vision if not detected and treated before the
age of six; and

WHEREAS, national studies indicate that undiagnosed vision
impairments are highest in children who live in poverty and who
are members of minority populations; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive eye examination is known to be
highly effective in detecting the leading causes of visual
impairment in young children; and

WHEREAS, a significant cost savings can be realized with

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1 comprehensive eye examinations using the American association
2 of pediatrics guidelines as compared to vision screening; and

3 WHEREAS, vision screening is performed in many New Mexico
4 schools, but a comprehensive eye examination is not
5 standardized or required for children in the first grade;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
8 of health, in cooperation with the public education department,
9 be requested to study the feasibility of requiring
10 comprehensive eye examinations in schools for students in first
11 grade; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study determine how to
13 standardize and implement training for comprehensive eye
14 examinations for all school nurses; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study recommend a process
16 for referral of students who fail the comprehensive eye
17 examinations during first grade to the appropriate professional
18 and develop a standardized referral form to be used by school
19 nurses for this purpose; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of this study be
21 presented to the legislative health and human services
22 committee at its November 2006 meeting; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the secretary of health and the secretary of
25 public education.

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