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HOUSE MEMORIAL 10

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION, IN COOPERATION WITH THE INSURANCE DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION, CONTINUE TO EVALUATE THE BENEFITS OF CONTRACEPTION USE, FURTHER THE USE OF THE NEW MEXICO CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE WEB SITE AND DISSEMINATE INSURANCE COVERAGE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPLIANCE OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY REGARDING COVERAGE OF PRESCRIPTION CONTRACEPTIVES.

WHEREAS, Sections 59A-22-42 and 59A-46-44 NMSA 1978 require health insurance providers that offer a prescription drug benefit to also offer coverage for prescription contraceptives; and

WHEREAS, the requirement to offer coverage for prescription contraceptives took effect on June 15, 2001; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 and 2006, the legislature requested that

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1 studies be conducted to ascertain the level of knowledge of and  
2 compliance with the requirement to offer coverage for  
3 prescription contraceptives; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2006, House Memorial 38 requested the  
5 insurance division of the public regulation commission and the  
6 New Mexico health policy commission to disseminate information  
7 about the compliance of the insurance industry with state law  
8 and started the New Mexico contraceptive coverage web site  
9 found on the internet at [http://hpc.state.nm.us/contraception/](http://hpc.state.nm.us/contraception/contraception.htm)  
10 [contraception.htm](http://hpc.state.nm.us/contraception/contraception.htm) to provide information to the public; and

11 WHEREAS, many women fail to discover before obtaining  
12 health insurance coverage whether the prescription  
13 contraceptives that best fit their lifestyles are covered by  
14 their insurance plans; and

15 WHEREAS, coverage of prescription contraceptives can  
16 reduce the costs to health insurance carriers by providing  
17 savings on health care costs due to reducing the expenses  
18 associated with unintended pregnancies and by promoting better  
19 health for mothers and their children; and

20 WHEREAS, many women still lack coverage for prescription  
21 contraceptives, even though private insurance plans have  
22 improved coverage in recent years, and many women still cannot  
23 obtain the kind of contraception they prefer and that best fits  
24 their lifestyles because of limitations in their health  
25 insurance plans; and

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1           WHEREAS, there remains more information to be gathered and  
2 disseminated, and it is necessary to keep the information  
3 gathered current;

4           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
6 health policy commission be requested to work with the  
7 insurance division of the public regulation commission to  
8 continue their cooperative efforts to gather and assess  
9 information regarding the compliance of the insurance industry  
10 with New Mexico laws requiring prescription contraception  
11 coverage and to disseminate the information gathered by their  
12 cooperative effort by means of the New Mexico contraceptive  
13 coverage web site, among other methods of public outreach, and  
14 provide an evaluation of the compliance of the health insurers  
15 in the state; and

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the insurance division of the  
17 public regulation commission and the New Mexico health policy  
18 commission continue their cooperative efforts to assess public  
19 awareness of the availability of prescription contraceptive  
20 coverage by health insurance providers and to develop and  
21 evaluate public information campaigns to raise the level of  
22 public awareness of insurance coverage of prescription  
23 contraceptives, including expansion and updating of the New  
24 Mexico contraceptive coverage web site; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the New Mexico health policy commission and the  
2 insurance division of the public regulation commission.

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