

HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE MEMORIAL 18

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM AND THE
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT AN INTEGRATED ENROLLMENT
SYSTEM FOR MEDICAID, ANY HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE AND BASIC
HEALTH PROGRAM COVERAGE.

WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable
Care Act of 2010 was enacted on March 23, 2010 to launch
comprehensive health care reform; and

WHEREAS, the overall approach of the federal Patient
Protection and Affordable Care Act to expand access to health
care requires most United States citizens and legal residents
to have health insurance; and

WHEREAS, the act expands medicaid to all citizens and
qualifying immigrants earning up to one hundred thirty-eight
percent of the federal poverty level; and

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underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, the act requires states to create health
2 insurance exchanges through which individuals and small
3 businesses can purchase health insurance coverage; and

4 WHEREAS, the act provides that states may opt, through a
5 basic health program, to offer a selection of health plans at
6 prices families can afford as a bridge between medicaid and the
7 private insurance market; and

8 WHEREAS, the New Mexico office of health care reform
9 projects that by January 1, 2020, more than one million New
10 Mexicans, or one-half of the state's population, will have
11 access to health care through medicaid, a health insurance
12 exchange or basic health program coverage; and

13 WHEREAS, under federal health care reform, more than one
14 hundred fifty thousand New Mexican adults will be newly
15 eligible for medicaid; and

16 WHEREAS, more than two hundred fifty thousand individual
17 New Mexicans, as well as many small employers, are projected to
18 be eligible for federal subsidies to purchase health care
19 coverage through an exchange; and

20 WHEREAS, under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
21 Act, states must develop a streamlined enrollment system by
22 January 1, 2014 that provides a single application for
23 determining eligibility for medicaid, as well as for any health
24 insurance exchange and any basic health program coverage, and
25 that ensures no wrong-door access; and

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1 WHEREAS, under the act, states must establish procedures
2 for conducting outreach and enrollment for vulnerable and
3 underserved populations and develop a community-based navigator
4 program for the exchange that assists consumers with applying
5 for all of the health care subsidy programs; and

6 WHEREAS, under the act, the enrollment system and
7 application process for insurance premium credits and
8 cost-sharing subsidies should be easy to use and understand and
9 be accessible to those with disabilities or with limited
10 English-language proficiency; and

11 WHEREAS, the human services department will receive
12 federal matching funds that will pay ninety percent of the
13 costs of developing a new computer system for medicaid that is
14 capable of coordinating application and enrollment functions
15 with other public benefits and health care programs; and

16 WHEREAS, the New Mexico office of health care reform was
17 awarded thirty-four million two hundred thousand dollars
18 (\$34,200,000) in federal grant money to establish an exchange,
19 including funds to develop an enrollment system for the
20 exchange that will provide online applications, telephone
21 support and navigators and that is capable of coordinating
22 enrollment functions with the medicaid program;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
25 office of health care reform and the human services department

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1 be requested to plan and develop a streamlined enrollment
2 system for medicaid, any health insurance exchange and basic
3 health program coverage; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the planning and development
5 process include among its goals:

6 A. implementation of an enrollment system that
7 provides a single standardized application for the health
8 subsidy programs;

9 B. enrollment in person, by mail, online, by
10 facsimile or by telephone;

11 C. using an enrollment application form that is
12 easy to use and understand;

13 D. a reduction in paperwork for applicants;

14 E. data exchanges between state and federal
15 agencies wherever possible;

16 F. collection of only information necessary for
17 enrollment;

18 G. access for people with disabilities;

19 H. language interpretation and translation
20 services;

21 I. statewide outreach and a community-based
22 navigator program that reaches underserved communities; and

23 J. prompt determination of program eligibility to
24 minimize gaps in coverage; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico office of

1 health care reform and the human services department cooperate
2 in the collection and analysis of data to assess:

3 A. enrollment and retention rates;

4 B. reasons for denial of enrollment applications;

5 and

6 C. disparities in access to coverage and the
7 utilization of services; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the planning and development
9 process consider:

10 A. whether to adopt the application developed by
11 the United States secretary of health and human services under
12 the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or
13 develop a separate state form;

14 B. data collection standards for information such
15 as race, ethnicity, primary language, location, gender, age and
16 disability status;

17 C. methods to improve retention rates, such as
18 renewing eligibility based on information from a public
19 benefits program;

20 D. the confidentiality of personal information
21 collected and its protection from unauthorized disclosure; and

22 E. acceptance of alternative documentation, such as
23 self-attestation, as proof of eligibility; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that stakeholders, including
25 consumers, small employers, representatives of federally

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1 recognized Indian nations, tribes and pueblos located in New
2 Mexico, off-reservation Native Americans and organizations that
3 represent the disabled, women, children, the elderly and
4 low-income families, be given the opportunity to provide
5 meaningful input in the planning and development process; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico office of
7 health care reform and the human services department be
8 requested to make periodic and final reports on the
9 implementation of an integrated enrollment system for medicaid,
10 any health insurance exchange and any basic health program
11 coverage to the interim legislative health and human services
12 committee; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the New Mexico office of health care reform and
15 the human services department.