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SENATE MEMORIAL 72

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph Cervantes

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN NEW
MEXICO AND REQUESTING THAT IT REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND TO THE
LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2014.

WHEREAS, public health is the science of protecting and
improving the health of communities through education,
promotion of healthy lifestyles and research for disease and
injury prevention; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals analyze the effects
of genetics, personal choice and the environment on health in
order to develop programs to protect the health of families and
communities; and

WHEREAS, the field of public health is highly varied and

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1 encompasses many academic disciplines such as behavioral
2 science and health education, biostatistics, environmental
3 health, epidemiology, nutrition and maternal and child health,
4 as well as public health policy; and

5 WHEREAS, there are forty-seven accredited schools of
6 public health in the United States, with only seven schools of
7 public health located west of the Mississippi river, and New
8 Mexico is not among them; and

9 WHEREAS, the accredited public health programs at New
10 Mexico state university and the university of New Mexico are
11 not offered through a school of public health; and

12 WHEREAS, schools of public health command prestige by
13 attracting talented faculty and top students, create employment
14 opportunities and make a substantial impact on regional public
15 health; and

16 WHEREAS, schools of public health have access to federal
17 funds for which other institutions are not eligible, and they
18 are more competitive in efforts to secure outside funding from
19 federal agencies such as the national institutes of health, the
20 centers for disease control and prevention and the department
21 of health and human services; and

22 WHEREAS, increased funding translates into increased
23 public health research, development of effective interventions
24 to address public health problems, health disparity reduction,
25 improvement in health indicators and more jobs for New Mexico

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1 residents;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
3 OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be requested
4 to study the feasibility of establishing a school of public
5 health in New Mexico; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
7 department be requested to report the findings of its school of
8 public health feasibility study to the legislative health and
9 human services committee and to the legislative finance
10 committee by November 1, 2014; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the higher education department, the legislative
13 health and human services committee and the legislative finance
14 committee.