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SENATE MEMORIAL 73

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

INTRODUCED BY

Clemente Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE STATE'S IMMUNIZATION SYSTEM AND TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO MINIMIZE THE BURDEN ON PROVIDERS AND TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND ACCESS TO IMMUNIZATIONS FOR NEW MEXICANS IN THE FACE OF CHANGES IN FEDERAL LAW.

WHEREAS, according to the federal centers for disease control and prevention, vaccines are one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, according to the association of state and territorial health officials, every one dollar (\$1.00) spent on immunizations saves sixteen dollars (\$16.00) in avoided costs; and

WHEREAS, the American academy of pediatrics, the American academy of family physicians and the federal centers for

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1 disease control and prevention all strongly support protecting
2 children with recommended vaccinations; and

3 WHEREAS, access and affordability of vaccinations is in
4 the best interest of the general public; and

5 WHEREAS, the "herd immunity" provided by widespread
6 immunization provides protection for an entire community as
7 reflected in the limited occurrence of measles, with only
8 sixty-three cases identified in the United States in 2010 for
9 what was once one of the most infectious diseases; and

10 WHEREAS, the federal Section 317 immunization grant
11 program provides funds for the purchase and delivery of
12 vaccines for eligible populations and supports national, state
13 and local immunization programs; and

14 WHEREAS, the federal Section 317 immunization grant
15 program has, for many years, strengthened immunization systems
16 and filled gaps in immunization coverage for vulnerable
17 populations not covered by private insurance or by the federal
18 vaccines for children program; and

19 WHEREAS, over time, priorities and policies have evolved
20 to respond to changes in clinical recommendations and in the
21 health care landscape; and

22 WHEREAS, states had considerable discretion in how to use
23 federal Section 317 immunization grant program funding before
24 October 12, 2012, when the federal centers for disease control
25 and prevention changed its policy so that Section 317 vaccines

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1 could not be used, with few exceptions, to immunize fully
2 insured persons; and

3 WHEREAS, according to the federal centers for disease
4 control and prevention, this new policy "focuses on ensuring
5 that insured individuals receive their vaccinations through
6 their insurance provider network, and are not subsidized
7 through federal funding"; and

8 WHEREAS, recent changes in the federal Patient Protection
9 and Affordable Care Act, with the resulting expansion in public
10 and private health insurance coverage, are expected to increase
11 the number of New Mexicans who have health insurance coverage;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, recent changes in the rules of the federal
14 centers for disease control and prevention regarding
15 immunizations will require providers to keep different
16 inventory and accounting systems for vaccine stock, based on
17 the insurance status of patients; and

18 WHEREAS, in order to ease the administrative and financial
19 burden on the state's health care providers and to maintain and
20 expand access to vaccines for New Mexico children, the state
21 needs to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the state's
22 current immunization system;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to
25 conduct a study of the state's current immunization system and

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1 develop a comprehensive strategy to minimize the burden on
2 immunization providers and to maintain and expand access to
3 immunizations for all New Mexicans in accordance with new
4 federal laws and regulations regarding federally funded
5 immunizations; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
7 requested to consider state grants or other state funding to
8 supplement federally funded immunization programs and efforts
9 in the course of its study; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
11 present its findings to the interim legislative health and
12 human services committee and the legislative finance committee
13 on or before August 1, 2014; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to Governor Susana Martinez and to the secretary of
16 health.

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