

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A LANGUAGE
3 ACCESS TASK FORCE THAT INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE
4 HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
5 DEPARTMENT, THE AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE
6 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND
7 ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING
8 DIVERSE POPULATIONS TO ENSURE THAT ALL STATE AGENCIES ARE
9 IMPLEMENTING POLICIES AND PLANS TO PROVIDE FULL AND
10 MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO STATE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR
11 NEW MEXICO RESIDENTS WHO HAVE LIMITED PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH.

12
13 WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of five majority-minority
14 states with a rich and diverse population representing
15 various racial and ethnic groups, including emerging Asian,
16 African, Central American, Latino and Middle Eastern
17 populations; and

18 WHEREAS, eliminating language, service and other
19 barriers for all New Mexico residents will help end
20 discriminatory practices toward New Mexicans who have limited
21 proficiency in English, a goal that has not yet been
22 achieved; and

23 WHEREAS, true and equitable access to systems such as
24 health care, law enforcement and social service programs
25 creates a healthier New Mexico community overall; and

1 WHEREAS, statewide implementation of limited
2 English-proficiency plans will increase the appropriate use
3 of interpreters and translators, thereby improving access
4 toward equitable and quality services for all New Mexicans;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the opportunity to become a
7 national leader in improving access to services for persons
8 with limited proficiency in English; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico affirms its commitment to Title 6 of
10 the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which protects people from
11 discrimination based on race, color or national origin in
12 programs or activities that receive federal financial
13 assistance; and

14 WHEREAS, supporting new arrivals to New Mexico, who may
15 have limited proficiency in English, and helping them
16 integrate quickly and start using their education, skills and
17 labor will benefit the state and local economies; and

18 WHEREAS, the president's Executive Order 13166 requires
19 all federal agencies to develop plans to ensure that persons
20 who have limited proficiency in English have meaningful
21 access to federal programs and activities; and

22 WHEREAS, the points discussed in this memorial were also
23 detailed in Senate Memorial 59, introduced and unanimously
24 passed by the New Mexico senate in 2015, and in which the
25 senate resolved that the governor be encouraged to issue an

1 executive order requiring all state agencies to develop and
2 implement policies and plans to ensure that New Mexico
3 residents who have limited proficiency in English have full
4 and meaningful access to state programs and activities;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be
7 requested to partner with the human services department, the
8 children, youth and families department, the aging and
9 long-term services department, the department of public
10 safety, the department of finance and administration and
11 community-based organizations representing diverse racial and
12 ethnic populations to form a task force to lead the effort
13 of:

14 A. developing a limited-English-proficiency policy
15 as a model for state agencies; and

16 B. enforcing the limited-English-proficiency
17 policies of state agencies and documenting best practices for
18 all state agencies to follow because of the crucial role
19 language and culture play in health care, law enforcement and
20 social service programs for all New Mexicans; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force make
22 recommendations to the governor of a model policy and plan to
23 be adopted by state agencies; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of each state
25 agency's policy and plan by the governor's office or other

1 agency designated by the governor, those state agencies
2 implement their policies and plans on the principles of
3 nondiscrimination and inclusion embodied in Title 6 of the
4 Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each state agency allocate a
6 reasonable percentage of its operational budget to ensure
7 equitable and quality access to its programs and activities
8 to New Mexicans who have limited proficiency in English,
9 including the availability of interpretation and translation
10 support; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the governor, the chairs of the legislative
13 health and human services committee and the legislative
14 finance committee and the secretaries of health; human
15 services; children, youth and families; aging and long-term
16 services; public safety; and finance and administration.=====

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25