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SENATE MEMORIAL 58

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Cisco McSorley

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY STRATEGIES FOR THE EXPANDED PROVISION OF LONG-ACTING REVERSIBLE CONTRACEPTIVES AND RELATED SERVICES.

WHEREAS, by helping women avert unintended pregnancies and other adverse reproductive health outcomes, publicly funded family planning services provided by health centers in New Mexico helped save the federal and state governments one hundred twenty-one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$121,500,000) in 2010; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, one hundred forty-seven thousand five hundred ninety New Mexico women aged thirteen to forty-four were in need of publicly funded family planning services; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico had the highest teen pregnancy rate in the nation in 2010 and the fourth-highest teen birth rate in

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1 the nation in 2014; and

2 WHEREAS, the American academy of pediatrics has
3 recommended that the first-line contraceptive choice for
4 adolescents who choose not to be abstinent is a long-acting
5 reversible contraceptive, which is an intrauterine device or a
6 subdermal implant; and

7 WHEREAS, the American college of obstetricians and
8 gynecologists committee on adolescent healthcare concluded in
9 2012 that, when choosing contraceptive methods, adolescents
10 should be encouraged to consider long-acting reversible
11 contraceptive methods; and

12 WHEREAS, the committee also concluded that intrauterine
13 devices and the contraceptive implant were the best reversible
14 contraceptive methods for preventing unintended pregnancies;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, information and access to long-acting reversible
17 contraceptives are part of comprehensive reproductive health
18 care, including counseling pertaining to abstinence,
19 contraception and sexually transmitted infections and diseases;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, many national and state medical and policy
22 agencies have identified costs and myths about the safety of
23 next-generation intrauterine devices and implants as deterrents
24 to the provision of long-acting reversible contraceptives; and

25 WHEREAS, publicly funded family planning services allow

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1 New Mexico residents to start or expand families when it makes
2 sense for those families; and

3 WHEREAS, birth into poverty is the strongest determinant
4 of whether young people will later live in poverty; and

5 WHEREAS, the economic futures of young people are stronger
6 when they are able to decide when to start or expand their
7 families; and

8 WHEREAS, questions have been raised about whether the
9 federal government has made sufficient information on
10 contraception options available to women; and

11 WHEREAS, it is critical that women of all ages make
12 informed decisions about contraception and have access to the
13 information and contraceptive options that are best for them;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, expansion of access to long-acting reversible
16 contraceptives in other states, including Colorado, Iowa and
17 Missouri, has proven to be effective in the reduction of
18 unintended pregnancy rates and the reduction of abortions; and

19 WHEREAS, the expansion of access to long-acting reversible
20 contraceptives has not resulted in increased rates of sexually
21 transmitted infections or reported increases in sexual
22 activity; and

23 WHEREAS, a department of health report to the legislative
24 finance committee in May 2015 identified long-term reversible
25 contraceptives as the most effective form of reversible birth

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1 control for young adults;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
3 OF NEW MEXICO that the medical assistance division of the human
4 services department and the department of health be requested
5 to convene a working group to study strategies for expanded
6 provision of long-acting reversible contraceptives and related
7 services; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be composed
9 of representatives of the following: the American college of
10 obstetricians and gynecologists; the American college of nurse-
11 midwives; the New Mexico hospital association; the New Mexico
12 pediatric society; the New Mexico alliance for school-based
13 health care; the university of New Mexico division of
14 adolescent medicine; the New Mexico primary care association;
15 members of managed care organizations; the superintendent of
16 insurance or the superintendent's designee; the American civil
17 liberties union; planned parenthood of New Mexico; young women
18 united; strong families New Mexico; the southwest women's law
19 center; the New Mexico graduation reality and dual-role skills
20 program; members of youth organizations; and others working on
21 long-acting reversible contraceptive issues; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
23 to identify existing barriers to the provision of long-acting
24 reversible contraceptives and strategies to remove those
25 barriers; and

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