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A JOINT MEMORIAL

CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROTECT THE FEDERAL INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT.

WHEREAS, the health care needs of American Indians are unique and include many unaddressed issues; and

WHEREAS, according to the department of health, American Indians in New Mexico bear a disproportionate share of poor health status and disease; and

WHEREAS, access to health care services varies greatly between urban Indians and Indians who reside on reservations; and

WHEREAS, funding for Indian health services has historically been inadequate in New Mexico and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the passage of relevant portions of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the permanent reauthorization of the federal Indian Health Care Improvement Act offer significant opportunities for tribes and Native American communities to contribute to the improved health and well-being of American Indians in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of American Indians in New Mexico have benefited from increased tribal participation in and expansion of tribal health programs; and

WHEREAS, the support, funding and opportunities provided

1 by the passage of relevant portions of the Patient Protection
2 and Affordable Care Act and the permanent reauthorization of
3 the Indian Health Care Improvement Act have expanded and
4 strengthened Indian sovereignty by allowing New Mexico Indian
5 pueblos, tribes and nations to take ownership of the
6 resources now available and to contribute in a meaningful way
7 to the improved health of all American Indians in New Mexico;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the protection of the Indian Health Care
10 Improvement Act ensures that tribes and Native American
11 communities can continue to contribute to the improved health
12 and well-being of American Indians in New Mexico;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it protect health care for American
15 Indians in New Mexico; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
17 delegation be called upon to urge their colleagues in the
18 United States congress to support measures to protect the
19 Indian Health Care Improvement Act; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the president of the United States, the
22 governor and the members of the New Mexico congressional
23 delegation.
