

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 13

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

CALLING FOR THE PROTECTION OF 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, funding for Indian health services has  
historically been inadequate in New Mexico and in the nation;  
and

WHEREAS, the passage 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

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1 contribute to the improved health and well-being of American  
2 Indians in New Mexico; and

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

6 WHEREAS, the support, funding and opportunities provided  
7 by the passage of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable  
8 Care Act and the permanent reauthorization of the federal  
9 Indian Health Care Improvement Act have expanded and  
10 strengthened Indian sovereignty by allowing New Mexico Indian  
11 pueblos, tribes and nations to take ownership of the resources  
12 now available and to contribute in a meaningful way to the  
13 improved health of all American Indians in New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, congressional efforts to repeal the federal  
15 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act jeopardize the  
16 permanent reauthorization of the federal Indian Health Care  
17 Improvement Act; and

18 WHEREAS, the protection of the federal Indian Health Care  
19 Improvement Act ensures that tribes and Native American  
20 communities continue to contribute to the improved health and  
21 well-being of American Indians in New Mexico;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature protect health care  
24 for American Indians in New Mexico; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature call upon the

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1 United States congress to protect the federal Indian Health  
2 Care Improvement Act and urge the New Mexico congressional  
3 delegation to support measures to protect the federal Indian  
4 Health Care Improvement Act; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to President Donald J. Trump, the governor, United  
7 States senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and United States  
8 representatives Ben Ray Lujan, Michelle Lujan Grisham and Steve  
9 Pearce.