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HOUSE MEMORIAL 92

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales and Gail Chasey

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF A HEALTH SECURITY PLAN AND REPORT ITS
FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, while the number of uninsured residents in New
Mexico has decreased, they are still experiencing increases in
health care premiums, high deductibles, rising out-of-pocket
expenses and increased pharmaceutical drug costs; and

WHEREAS, rising health care costs adversely affect state
and local government budgets, as well as family budgets; and

WHEREAS, uncertainty regarding health insurance coverage
at the federal level compels states to explore innovative
opportunities and solutions to provide greater access to
affordable high-quality health coverage to their residents; and

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1 WHEREAS, studies completed in 1994 and 2007 by independent
2 policy research firms examined the possible benefits of
3 covering most or all residents under one health risk pool; and

4 WHEREAS, this approach could result in greater economies
5 of scale, substantially contain costs, reduce administrative
6 complexity and uncompensated care and create a more stable
7 health care system that benefits all New Mexico residents; and

8 WHEREAS, the provisions of House Bill 295 and Senate Bill
9 279, introduced during the first session of the fifty-fourth
10 legislature, outline an innovative health security plan based
11 on decades of efforts to provide for statewide comprehensive
12 health care coverage regardless of age, employment or health
13 status; and

14 WHEREAS, the health security plan was first conceived
15 twenty-seven years ago; and

16 WHEREAS, over the last several years, legislation has been
17 sponsored to enact a health security plan; and

18 WHEREAS, proposals for a health security plan have been
19 developed over many years with input from diverse sectors from
20 all over the state; and

21 WHEREAS, over the years, one hundred seventy New Mexico
22 organizations and thirty-five cities and counties representing
23 a broad bipartisan cross-section of New Mexicans from all parts
24 of the state have endorsed the creation of a health security
25 plan; and

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1 WHEREAS, before creating a health security plan, a
2 thorough fiscal analysis is needed to determine its fiscal
3 viability;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
6 finance committee be requested to work with contractors or
7 consultants as needed to conduct a fiscal analysis of the
8 health security plan as provided for in House Bill 295 and
9 Senate Bill 279 of the first session of the fifty-fourth
10 legislature; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of superintendent
12 of insurance, the human services department, the department of
13 health and other state agencies and commissions; the New Mexico
14 health insurance exchange; and New Mexico health insurers and
15 providers be requested to provide health care cost and coverage
16 information to the legislative finance committee as needed; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance
18 committee be requested to ensure that the collection of the
19 data needed to conduct its fiscal analysis be coordinated with
20 the human services department and other agencies and
21 commissions to prevent duplication of effort; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance
23 committee be requested to report the results of its analysis to
24 the legislative health and human services committee no later
25 than July 31, 2021; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
3 council, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chair
4 and vice chair of the legislative finance committee, the
5 superintendent of insurance, the secretary of human services,
6 the secretary of health and the board of directors of the New
7 Mexico health insurance exchange.

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