

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A TASK
12 FORCE TO STUDY THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY
13 HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
14 HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER AND TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE SOURCES OF
15 FUNDING FOR THAT PROGRAM.

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17 WHEREAS, the extension for community healthcare outcomes
18 program, known as "Project ECHO", is an educational
19 telementoring network at the university of New Mexico health
20 sciences center that uses video conferencing and case-based
21 learning to amplify the knowledge and self-efficacy of
22 physicians in rural and urban underserved New Mexico
23 communities; and

24 WHEREAS, the program's physicians specialize in treating
25 epidemic conditions, such as hepatitis, opioid use disorder,

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1 diabetes, HIV and mental illness; and

2 WHEREAS, the program now has many nonmedical programs that
3 address topics including education, child abuse, first
4 responders and crisis intervention; and

5 WHEREAS, the program provides knowledge to physicians on
6 issues that plague rural and underserved communities; and

7 WHEREAS, the center for health care strategies reports
8 that despite receiving state, local and private funding, the
9 extension for community healthcare outcomes program receives no
10 continuous federal funding; and

11 WHEREAS, rural New Mexico areas experience magnified
12 health issues due to lack of access to care; and

13 WHEREAS, the department of health reports that substance
14 abuse and untreated mental illness are factors that contribute
15 to poorer health outcomes in rural communities; and

16 WHEREAS, programs that benefit underserved communities,
17 such as the extension for community healthcare outcomes
18 program, must receive sufficient funding to continue to address
19 health disparities in rural communities;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of human services be
22 requested to convene a task force to study the contributions of
23 the extension for community healthcare outcomes program in New
24 Mexico, to determine other health disparities that the program
25 could address and to identify other sources of funding for the

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1 program; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
3 representatives from the human services department, the
4 department of health, the corrections department, the public
5 education department, the early childhood education and care
6 department and the university of New Mexico health sciences
7 center, including representatives from the extension for
8 community healthcare outcomes program; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
10 report its findings and recommendations to the legislative
11 health and human services committee by November 1, 2020; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the board of
14 regents of the university of New Mexico and the chair of the
15 legislative health and human services committee.

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