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SENATE MEMORIAL 9

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Gregg Schmedes

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE
FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A CENTER FOR COMPLEX CARE FOR ADULTS
AND CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND MEDICAL
COMPLEXITY IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, a national survey of children's health and data
from the federal centers for disease control and prevention
highlight the lack of services for children and adults with
special health care needs in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, a national survey of children's health sponsored
by the maternal and child health bureau of the health resources
and services administration, an agency of the United States
department of health and human services, examines the physical
and emotional health of children from birth up to age
seventeen; and

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1 WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 national survey of children's
2 health estimates that there are ninety thousand nine hundred
3 twenty-four children or youths with special health care needs
4 in New Mexico, or eighteen and seven-tenths percent of the
5 state's population of children seventeen and younger; and

6 WHEREAS, information from the federal centers for disease
7 control and prevention states that twenty-eight percent of
8 adults, or four hundred sixty thousand three hundred fifty-five
9 individuals with disabilities in New Mexico, have some sort of
10 functional limitations; and

11 WHEREAS, these children, youth and adults would benefit
12 from a freestanding medical facility where they could be seen,
13 transitioned or transferred to adult care and continue
14 receiving medical care as adults; and

15 WHEREAS, there are few systems and resources available in
16 New Mexico to aid pediatric and adult health care providers and
17 children, youth and adults with special health care needs or
18 medical complexities and their families; and

19 WHEREAS, it would be more financially sound to keep the
20 health care of New Mexicans with disabilities within the state;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, children, youth and adults with disabilities and
23 their families lack a freestanding health care facility where
24 their needs at all phases of life can be met; and

25 WHEREAS, research has shown that the lack of effective

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1 health care, transition and transfer services and adult health
2 care services as well as fragmentation of care has a negative
3 impact on the health of patients throughout their life spans;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, optimal health care is achieved when each person,
6 at every age, receives medically and developmentally
7 appropriate care;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
9 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to
10 conduct a study to assess the feasibility of creating a
11 freestanding center for complex care for the children, youth
12 and adults of New Mexico, where they may obtain excellence in
13 care for their special health care needs and medical
14 complexities; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
16 requested to consider:

17 A. the feasibility of a center for complex care and
18 the ways such a center could benefit and provide access for
19 people of all ages with special needs and medical complexity
20 from across New Mexico, including using telehealth services;

21 B. strategies to address the shortage of
22 physicians, therapists and other providers who are needed to
23 care for children, youth and adults with special needs and
24 medical complexity;

25 C. changes to existing policies, programs or

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1 regulations or recommendations on new policies;

2 D. an assessment of more effective ways to deliver
3 services to youth with special health care needs as they
4 transition from pediatric to adult care; and

5 E. improvements to the efficiency of overall health
6 care delivery to this population to ease the burden on patients
7 and their families and maximize outcomes, including lifelong
8 functioning and well-being for children, youth and adults with
9 special health care needs and medical complexity; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
11 report its findings and recommendations to the legislative
12 finance committee and the appropriate legislative interim
13 committee; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of human
16 services and the chair of the legislative health and human
17 services committee.