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HOUSE BILL 221

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1996

INTRODUCED BY

EDWARD C. SANDOVAL

FOR THE HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE AND THE LEGISLATIVE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE; ENACTING A SECTION OF THE NMSA
1978 TO PROHIBIT HEALTH INSURERS FROM DISCRIMINATING AGAINST
PERSONS WITH SEVERE PERSISTENT BIOLOGICALLY BASED MENTAL
ILLNESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 59A, Article 16 NMSA
1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH SEVERE
PERSISTENT BIOLOGICALLY BASED MENTAL ILLNESS. --No insurer,
including health maintenance organizations, nonprofit health
care plans and fraternal benefit societies, shall on the basis
of a person's severe persistent biologically based mental
illness refuse to insure, refuse to continue to insure, limit
the amount, extent or kind of coverage available to a person or

Underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 treat any person with a severe persistent biologically based
2 mental illness differently than a person with any other illness
3 with respect to the terms, conditions, rates, benefits or
4 requirements of an insurance contract. For purposes of this
5 section, "severe persistent biologically based mental illness"
6 means schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, pervasive developmental
7 disorder or autism, paranoia, panic disorder, obsessive-
8 compulsive disorder or any major depressive disorder. "

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