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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 21  
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001  
INTRODUCED BY  
Sheryl Williams Stapelton

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL  
REQUESTING THE STATE AGENCY ON AGING TO IDENTIFY AND PUBLICIZE  
ALL AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM OPTIONS AND EDUCATE  
NEW MEXICO'S SENIOR CITIZENS ABOUT THESE OPTIONS.

WHEREAS, there exists a crisis in lack of access and  
affordability of prescription drugs for tens of thousands of  
New Mexico's senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, congress has allowed medicare reimbursement to  
deteriorate to the degree that most insurance and health  
maintenance organization managed care providers withdrew from  
the field the first of this year, abruptly leaving nearly  
seventeen thousand New Mexico seniors without prescription drug  
coverage; and

WHEREAS, a senior citizen's monthly bill for prescription

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1 drugs averages four hundred fifty dollars (\$450) per month; and

2 WHEREAS, without health maintenance organization or other  
3 prescription drug coverage, many seniors are unable to afford  
4 prescription drugs, thereby endangering their health and lives;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the state agency on aging has led the creation of  
7 a statewide network of senior citizen centers and programs,  
8 which ably provides regular services and communication with  
9 seniors throughout New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, this exemplary agency advocates for a broad range  
11 of methods and programs to assist our honored parents and  
12 grandparents to enjoy their last decades in self-respect and  
13 good health;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state agency on aging be requested  
16 to identify every means possible for the state's senior  
17 citizens, particularly those of low income, to gain access to  
18 and be able to afford vitally needed prescription drugs and to  
19 publicize that information far and wide to New Mexico's oldest  
20 generation; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
22 sent to the state agency on aging.