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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 41
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002
INTRODUCED BY
Judy Vanderstar Russell

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
AND THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON LONG-TERM CARE TO
STUDY THE COST AND BENEFIT OF PROVIDING TAX CREDITS TO OFFSET
PRESCRIPTION DRUG SPENDING.

WHEREAS, twenty-one percent of New Mexico's population
has no health insurance; and

WHEREAS, many more citizens who have health insurance
have no coverage for prescriptions drugs; and

WHEREAS, medicare does not cover the cost of outpatient
prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, those who lack insurance coverage for
prescription drugs pay the highest cost for prescription
drugs, since they lack access to negotiated discounts; and

WHEREAS, prescription drugs are essential to treatment of
most medical conditions and are critical to maintain the

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1 health of those suffering from many chronic conditions; and

2 WHEREAS, those who cannot afford to purchase prescription
3 drugs may suffer severe health consequences as a result of not
4 taking the prescribed medication; and

5 WHEREAS, providing a tax credit to offset the annual
6 expenditures for these necessary and expensive prescription
7 drugs may be the only means to allow some persons to purchase
8 prescription drugs for therapeutic and life-saving purposes;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico already has removed the requirement
11 for payment of gross receipts taxes on prescription drugs;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cabinet level interagency
14 committee on long-term care be requested to conduct a study of
15 the cost and benefit of providing tax credits to offset
16 prescription drug spending; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency committee on
18 long-term care report its findings to the interim legislative
19 health and human services committee at its October 2002
20 meeting; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
22 sent to the legislative health and human services committee
23 and to the respective members of the interagency committee on
24 long-term care.