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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 74**  
**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**  
**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Brian K. Moore**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**REQUESTING AN AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN**  
**PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN RURAL, MEDICALLY**  
**UNDERSERVED AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS.**

**WHEREAS, the Health Service Corps Act was enacted to**  
**recruit health professionals for rural and medically**  
**underserved areas; and**

**WHEREAS, the Medical Student Loan for Service Act was**  
**similarly designed to meet the needs resulting from a shortage**  
**of physicians, physicians' assistants and other designated**  
**health professionals in less-populated areas of the state; and**

**WHEREAS, the Health Professional Loan Repayment Act**  
**provides for repayment of a student's loans for his health**  
**care education, provided the health professional commits to**  
**practice in designated health professional shortage areas; and**

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1           WHEREAS, these programs represent some of the initiatives  
2 through which health professionals are encouraged to practice  
3 in rural, medically underserved and health professional  
4 shortage areas; and

5           WHEREAS, the legislative health and human services  
6 committee and the legislative health subcommittee have heard  
7 testimony on the shortage of health professionals throughout  
8 New Mexico; and

9           WHEREAS, counties, municipalities and other political  
10 subdivisions continually struggle to ensure the availability  
11 of health care services, despite limited or nonexistent  
12 resources; and

13           WHEREAS, the shortage of health professionals and the  
14 health care inflation rate will continue to place significant  
15 demands on the health care system and the economy of the  
16 state; and

17           WHEREAS, recruitment and retention of physicians and  
18 other health care providers to rural, medically underserved  
19 and health professional shortage areas requires a focused and  
20 coordinated approach;

21           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy  
23 commission be requested to assess the needs of rural,  
24 medically underserved and health professional shortage areas  
25 and the effectiveness of the Health Service Corps Act, the

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1 Medical Student Loan for Service Act and the Health  
2 Professional Loan Repayment Act in addressing those needs; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico health policy  
4 commission, in its assessment, consider initiatives that  
5 include:

6 A. higher medicaid payment rates for physicians;

7 B. coordination with the New Mexico congressional  
8 delegation to increase medicare payments for physicians;

9 C. the development of programs to mentor students  
10 and encourage them to enter the health care professions;

11 D. the licensing of foreign medical graduates or  
12 out-of-state health professionals;

13 E. the leveraging of county and local health care  
14 funding through matching funds;

15 F. an expansion of the programs designed to assist  
16 rural, medically underserved and health professional shortage  
17 areas; and

18 G. similar measures; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico health policy  
20 commission, in consultation with appropriate health care  
21 professional licensing boards and agencies, a health  
22 professional recruitment agency and the department of health,  
23 report its findings and recommendations to an appropriate  
24 interim committee by November 1, 2002; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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transmitted to the New Mexico health policy commission.

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