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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 16
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002
INTRODUCED BY
Dede Feldman

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DEVELOP A PROGRAM
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND ENCOURAGE
ENTRY INTO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS.

WHEREAS, health care education programs require a solid
foundation in mathematics, science and analytical thinking;
and

WHEREAS, for the foreseeable future, the demand for
health care professionals will continue to grow as the
population ages and advances in medical technology continue
unabated; and

WHEREAS, careers in health care will continue to broaden
in scope, providing numerous opportunities for well-educated
and well-trained students; and

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1 WHEREAS, health care professionals and state leaders are
2 in a position to provide young students with opportunities to
3 learn first hand about the challenges and rewards of health
4 care professions; and

5 WHEREAS, a program modeled on the boys state and girls
6 state experience can supply the motivation, education,
7 mentoring and community involvement needed to develop and
8 maintain a student pipeline for health care professions; and

9 WHEREAS, exposure to health care professions will allow
10 students a broader education and valuable learning
11 experience; and

12 WHEREAS, the dropout rate for students in New Mexico is
13 unacceptable, indicating a need to provide programs at levels
14 earlier than high school;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be
17 requested to develop a program, in conjunction with the state
18 department of public education and middle schools and high
19 schools throughout the state, to provide students with hands-
20 on learning from mentors in health care professions and then
21 opportunities to share their learning through peer mentoring;
22 and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program include a
24 recruitment and retention approach and a method to identify,
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1 at an early age, students who are interested in health care
2 professions and to track their progress, encourage their
3 participation in mathematics and science classes beyond the
4 basic requirements, provide them with mentoring and financial
5 aid information and generally assist them in recognizing the
6 diversity of health care careers; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the department of health and the state
9 department of public education.

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