

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 92

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

J. Paul Taylor

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE AGENCY ON AGING TO LEAD A STUDY ON THE
FINANCIAL IMPACT OF FACILITY-BASED CARE ON THE MEDICAID BUDGET
AND IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVE MODELS OF FINANCING SUCH CARE.

WHEREAS, the population of New Mexicans over the age of
sixty-five is growing and will almost double by the year 2020;
and

WHEREAS, due to medical advances, people are living
longer, but not necessarily healthier, lives; and

WHEREAS, the population of people over the age of eighty-
five is growing twice as fast as that of people over sixty-
five, and these are the most frail of the elderly; and

WHEREAS, a large and growing number of aging people are
suffering from the ravages of Alzheimer's disease and are
unable to care for themselves; and

.151263.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, the medicaid program in New Mexico covers the
2 cost of nursing home care and home- and community-based
3 services for the elderly and disabled and provides in excess of
4 two hundred twenty-one million dollars (\$221,000,000) in
5 combined state and federal funding for these services; and

6 WHEREAS, the private cost of nursing home care is
7 unaffordable for most people in need of nursing home care and
8 therefore most families have come to rely on medicaid to fund
9 this level of care for their elderly relatives; and

10 WHEREAS, people are finding it relatively easy to qualify
11 for medicaid long-term care services, despite seemingly
12 restrictive eligibility rules, and this relaxed access has
13 resulted in an entitlement mentality regarding the financing of
14 these services; and

15 WHEREAS, use of private, out-of-pocket and insurance
16 financing of these long-term care services has languished while
17 medicaid costs have skyrocketed; and

18 WHEREAS, long-term care insurance, home equity conversion
19 and other alternative mechanisms for private financing of
20 long-term care services have been little utilized;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state agency on aging be requested
23 to lead a study, with the cooperation of the human services
24 department and appropriate statewide organizations representing
25 aging and long-term care services, on the financial impact of

.151263.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 facility-based and home- and community-based care on the
2 medicaid budget and identify alternative models of financing
3 such care; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study identify
5 appropriate incentives to encourage self care and the use of
6 insurance, explore potential ways to limit asset identification
7 and asset transfers and promote maximum medicaid estate
8 recovery; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state agency on aging
10 support the efforts of a statewide organization representing
11 the needs of people with Alzheimer's disease, and others as
12 appropriate, to hold a conference exploring alternative models
13 of financing long-term care services; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state agency on aging
15 develop recommendations on implementation of alternative
16 mechanisms for financing long-term care services and report its
17 findings and recommendations to the interim legislative health
18 and human services committee at its October 2004 meeting; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state agency on aging and
20 the human services department notify appropriate statewide
21 organizations representing aging and long-term care; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the state agency on aging and the human services
24 department.