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HOUSE MEMORIAL 25

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

INTRODUCED BY

Rhonda S. King

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A REGISTRY FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM**

**WHEREAS, autism is a neurobiological disorder that
interferes with the normal development of communication and
social interaction skills; and**

**WHEREAS, autism is the second most common developmental
disability and is seen in all ethnic, racial and socioeconomic
groups throughout the world; and**

**WHEREAS, autism is the fastest-growing developmental
disability, with a ninety-billion-dollar (\$90,000,000,000)
annual cost; and**

**WHEREAS, the cost of lifelong care for individuals with
autism may be reduced by two-thirds with early diagnosis and**

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1 intervention; and

2 WHEREAS, early autism diagnosis and intervention is
3 instrumental in determining success; and

4 WHEREAS, children up to age three may receive an
5 interdisciplinary diagnosis through the department of health's
6 family infant toddler program; and

7 WHEREAS, the center for development and disability at the
8 university of New Mexico health sciences center began its
9 interdisciplinary clinic in 1993 to provide autism diagnosis;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, because of a lack of funding, the waiting list
12 for the center for development and disability interdisciplinary
13 clinic is as long as eighteen months, which further delays
14 appropriate intervention; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico has no central registry for
16 individuals with autism, making it difficult to determine the
17 amount of funding needed for services;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
20 health and human services committee study the feasibility of
21 establishing a central registry for individuals with autism;
22 and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative health and
24 human services committee study the feasibility of the center
25 for development and disability, the department of health's

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1 family infant toddler program, the public education department
2 and the legislative education study committee collaborating to
3 develop a "one stop shop" to coordinate all necessary autism
4 specialists to evaluate a child in one setting and to develop a
5 comprehensive plan of action for early intervention; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council, the center
8 for development and disability, the department of health, the
9 public education department and the legislative education study
10 committee.

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