

HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE MEMORIAL 25

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

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM FOR
DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDERS AND HOW TO DELIVER THE NECESSARY SERVICES TO THAT
POPULATION.

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorders are neurobiological
disorders that interfere with the normal development of
communication and social interaction skills; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorders are the second most
common type of developmental disabilities and are seen in all
ethnic, racial and socioeconomic groups throughout the world;
and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorders are the fastest-growing
developmental disability, with a ninety-billion-dollar

1 (\$90,000,000,000) annual cost; and

2 WHEREAS, the cost of lifelong care for an individual with
3 autism spectrum disorders may be reduced by two-thirds with
4 early diagnosis and intervention; and

5 WHEREAS, early autism spectrum disorders diagnosis and
6 intervention is instrumental in determining success; and

7 WHEREAS, a child up to age three may receive an
8 interdisciplinary diagnosis through the department of health's
9 family infant toddler program; and

10 WHEREAS, the center for development and disability at the
11 university of New Mexico health sciences center began its
12 interdisciplinary clinic in 1993 to provide autism spectrum
13 disorders diagnoses; and

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

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico has no system to determine the number
19 of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, making it
20 difficult to determine the amount of funding needed to develop
21 and deliver necessary services;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
24 health and human services committee study the feasibility of
25 establishing a system to determine the number and protect the

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 confidentiality of individuals with autism spectrum disorders;
2 and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative health and
4 human services committee study how to deliver the necessary
5 services to individuals with autism spectrum disorders; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative health and
7 human services committee study the feasibility of the center
8 for development and disability, the department of health's
9 family infant toddler program, the public education department
10 and the legislative education study committee collaborating to
11 develop a "one stop shop" to coordinate all necessary autism
12 spectrum disorders specialists to evaluate a child in one
13 setting and to develop a comprehensive plan of action for early
14 intervention; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council, the center
17 for development and disability, the department of health, the
18 public education department and the legislative education study
19 committee.