HOUSE MEMORIAL 20

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY AND MAKE

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF TRAUMA CARE

IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, unintentional injury is a significant problem and

is the number one cause of death for persons between one and

forty-four years of age in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, New Mexico was ranked by the federal

centers for disease control and prevention as first in the

nation in unintentional injury, has a death rate that is fifty

percent higher than the national average and is first in the

nation in pedestrian fatalities caused by traumatic injury; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has the highest mortality rate

for traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, residents and visitors to New Mexico who are

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1   seriously injured are entitled to receive the highest level of

2   care; and

3   WHEREAS, the optimal number of neurosurgeons for New

4   Mexico's population is thirty-five; however, there are fewer

5   than ten neurosurgeons in the state; and

6   WHEREAS, there is a continuing loss of neurosurgeons

7   needed to provide care to traumatic brain injury victims in the

8   state; and

9   WHEREAS, it has been repeatedly demonstrated that trauma

10   care effectively reduces injury mortality and morbidity in

11   children; and

12   WHEREAS, the trauma system infrastructure is only

13   minimally funded by the state and intermittently funded by the

14   federal government; and

15   WHEREAS, the trauma system needs to be expanded, and no

16   sustainable source of funding exists; and

17   WHEREAS, of the thirty-four acute care hospitals in the

18   state, only three are designated by the department of health as

19   trauma centers, leaving significantly large areas of the state

20   with inadequate access to trauma care;

21   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

22   REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department

23   of health be requested to create a targeted-issue trauma system

24   committee to study and make recommendations to improve the

25   statewide system of trauma care in New Mexico; and

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1   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study identify the

2   structure, personnel, facilities and related requirements

3   necessary to develop a statewide pediatric trauma system; and

4   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study reflect the cost of

5   continuing operation of both an adult and a pediatric trauma

6   system in New Mexico; and

7   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study examine the

8   financial and professional needs of trauma physicians to ensure

9   provision of specialized care for trauma victims statewide; and

10   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health

11   request the insurance division of the public regulation

12   commission, the statewide emergency medical services advisory

13   committee, the trauma advisory committee, a statewide

14   organization representing physicians, a community hospital in

15   Santa Fe and a statewide trauma foundation to each designate

16   one representative to serve on the targeted-issue trauma system

17   committee; and

18   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its

19   findings and recommendations to address the need for trauma

20   system neurosurgeons, development of a pediatric system and

21   adequate financing for a statewide trauma system to the interim

22   legislative health and human services committee by October

23   2005; and

24   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

25   sent to the secretary of health, the director of the insurance

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1 division of the public regulation commission, the statewide

2 emergency medical services advisory committee and the trauma

3 advisory committee.

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