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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 20
47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY
Miguel P. Garcia

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION APPOINT
A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ADEQUACY OF NURSING SCHOOL FACULTY
SALARIES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, over forty-one percent of registered nurses and
forty-three percent of licensed practical nurses in New Mexico
are over the age of fifty, which means that forty-three percent
of the nursing workforce will need to be replaced over the next
fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, the labor department predicts that the state will
need an additional four thousand five hundred twenty registered
nurses and six hundred eighty licensed practical nurses by the
year 2012; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for qualified nursing
school faculty as existing faculty reach retirement age; and

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1 WHEREAS, recruiting qualified nursing school faculty is
2 hampered by low salaries and the fact that a nursing school
3 faculty member typically earns two thousand dollars (\$2,000)
4 less than the average nursing graduate; and

5 WHEREAS, without an adequate number of qualified nursing
6 school faculty, nursing schools in New Mexico will be unable to
7 accommodate the growing demand for nurses in the state;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy
10 commission appoint a task force to study solutions to the
11 nursing school faculty salary problem; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include, but
13 not necessarily be limited to, representatives of the college
14 of nursing at the university of New Mexico; the department of
15 nursing at New Mexico state university; one or more nursing
16 programs at community colleges; the New Mexico nurses
17 association; the New Mexico center for nursing excellence; and
18 the higher education department; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider in its
20 study the possible benefits of creating an amnesty program for
21 current faculty loan recipients as an encouragement for nurses
22 with advanced education to become faculty and restructuring
23 expansion funds to be recurring line items in the nursing
24 program budgets; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its

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1 findings to the legislative health and human services committee
2 by November 2007; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the New Mexico health policy commission.

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