

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 50

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE STATED HEALTH POLICY OF NEW MEXICO
AND ENDORSING THE CONCEPT OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR ALL NEW
MEXICANS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico law states, "It is the policy of the
state of New Mexico to promote optimal health; to prevent
disease, disability and premature death; to improve the quality
of life; and to assure that basic health care services are
available, accessible, acceptable and culturally appropriate,
regardless of financial status", and that "provision of basic
treatment services to all New Mexicans" is a way of realizing
that policy; and

WHEREAS, access to health care is determined by such
factors as the ability to obtain appropriate, timely, cost-
effective and affordable health care; and

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1 WHEREAS, studies by such prestigious entities as the
2 institute of medicine have demonstrated that access to care is
3 impaired by various factors in the United States, particularly
4 for those who have no insurance; and

5 WHEREAS, health insurance premiums have risen at double-
6 digit rates for several years, and no apparent end to the
7 rising premiums is in sight; and

8 WHEREAS, according to the 2001 national medical
9 expenditure panel survey, more than thirty-five million of the
10 one hundred twelve million working Americans do not have health
11 insurance coverage from their employers; and

12 WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the federal
13 health resources and services administration, forty-one percent
14 of employers in New Mexico do not offer health insurance to
15 their employees; and

16 WHEREAS, an estimated twenty-one percent of New Mexico's
17 population lack health insurance, ranking New Mexico second to
18 last in the nation in this critical area; and

19 WHEREAS, according to the world health organization, the
20 United States spends a higher portion of its gross domestic
21 product on health care services than any other country, but
22 ranks thirty-seventh out of one hundred ninety-one countries in
23 health outcomes; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2002, New Mexico spent close to eight billion
25 dollars (\$8,000,000,000) on health care services, nearly

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1 seventy-five percent of which came from public sources; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2005, New Mexico spent an estimated six
3 hundred fifty-four million dollars (\$654,000,000) from the
4 general fund on medicaid, yet more than twenty thousand income-
5 eligible children are not enrolled in the program; and

6 WHEREAS, the population of New Mexico that is over sixty-
7 five is growing and will almost double by the year 2025, and it
8 is projected to be fourth in the country in the percentage of
9 the population over age sixty-five at more than twenty-six
10 percent; and

11 WHEREAS, current aging and long-term services, programs
12 and related infrastructure are inadequate to meet the needs of
13 a growing aging and disabled population; and

14 WHEREAS, the current health care system is highly
15 fragmented, resulting in inefficient access to health care
16 services, high out-of-pocket expenses, safety and quality-of-
17 care concerns, and duplication of services and administration;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the goals of the stated health policy
20 of New Mexico be adhered to and implemented and that the
21 concept of health care coverage for all New Mexicans be hereby
22 endorsed; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a strong commitment to
24 achieving this goal of health care coverage for all New
25 Mexicans be made a priority of this body; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 sent to the governor and the New Mexico congressional
3 delegation.

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