

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 60

2 47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Dede Feldman

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION TO CREATE A
12 TASK FORCE TO STUDY LANGUAGE BARRIERS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTH
13 CARE DISPARITIES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING MEDICAL
14 INTERPRETATION.

15
16 WHEREAS, quality health care requires that patients and
17 providers communicate effectively; and

18 WHEREAS, an inability to communicate effectively can be a
19 language barrier to receiving quality health care for many
20 racial and ethnic minorities; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the highest percentage of
22 residents with limited English language proficiency in the
23 country; and

24 WHEREAS, Hispanics and Native Americans make up more than
25 fifty percent of the state's population; and

.161716.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, studies have indicated that while the incidence
2 of health care disparities among most minorities is decreasing,
3 the incidence of health care disparities is increasing among
4 Hispanics; and

5 WHEREAS, numerous health care providers throughout the
6 state rely on untrained staff, other patients and even children
7 to interpret patient-provider communications that are complex,
8 confidential and sensitive; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a critical need for more medical
10 interpreters who are culturally and linguistically competent;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy
13 commission be requested to create a task force to study
14 language barriers that contribute to health care disparities,
15 review existing standards for medical interpreters and make
16 recommendations on the training and practices of medical
17 interpretation; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
19 representation from the department of health, health care
20 practitioners, medical interpreters and affected communities,
21 particularly those with Hispanic and Native American residents;
22 and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its
24 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and
25 human services committee by September 30, 2006; and

.161716.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico health policy commission and the department of health.

- 3 -