

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION, IN COOPERATION WITH THE INSURANCE DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION, CONTINUE TO EVALUATE THE BENEFITS OF CONTRACEPTION USE, FURTHER THE USE OF THE NEW MEXICO CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE WEB SITE AND DISSEMINATE INSURANCE COVERAGE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPLIANCE OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY REGARDING COVERAGE OF PRESCRIPTION CONTRACEPTIVES.

WHEREAS, Sections 59A-22-42 and 59A-46-44 NMSA 1978 require health insurance providers that offer a prescription drug benefit to also offer coverage for prescription contraceptives; and

WHEREAS, the requirement to offer coverage for prescription contraceptives took effect on June 15, 2001; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 and 2006, the legislature requested that studies be conducted to ascertain the level of knowledge of and compliance with the requirement to offer coverage for prescription contraceptives; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, House Memorial 38 requested the insurance division of the public regulation commission and the New Mexico health policy commission to disseminate information about the compliance of the insurance industry with state law and started the New Mexico contraceptive coverage web site found on the internet at <http://hpc.state.nm.us/contraception/>

contraception.htm to provide information to the public; and

WHEREAS, many women fail to discover before obtaining health insurance coverage whether the prescription contraceptives that best fit their lifestyles are covered by their insurance plans; and

WHEREAS, coverage of prescription contraceptives can reduce the costs to health insurance carriers by providing savings on health care costs due to reducing the expenses associated with unintended pregnancies and by promoting better health for mothers and their children; and

WHEREAS, many women still lack coverage for prescription contraceptives, even though private insurance plans have improved coverage in recent years, and many women still cannot obtain the kind of contraception they prefer and that best fits their lifestyles because of limitations in their health insurance plans; and

WHEREAS, there remains more information to be gathered and disseminated, and it is necessary to keep the information gathered current;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy commission be requested to work with the insurance division of the public regulation commission to continue their cooperative efforts to gather and assess information regarding the compliance of the insurance industry

with New Mexico laws requiring prescription contraception coverage and to disseminate the information gathered by their cooperative effort by means of the New Mexico contraceptive coverage web site, among other methods of public outreach, and provide an evaluation of the compliance of the health insurers in the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the insurance division of the public regulation commission and the New Mexico health policy commission continue their cooperative efforts to assess public awareness of the availability of prescription contraceptive coverage by health insurance providers and to develop and evaluate public information campaigns to raise the level of public awareness of insurance coverage of prescription contraceptives, including expansion and updating of the New Mexico contraceptive coverage web site; and

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