

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER A COORDINATED, COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF INNOVATIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM INITIATIVES.

WHEREAS, health care expenditures continue to impact state and federal budgets as well as the cost of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, every individual carries a responsibility for that individual's health care management through wellness and prevention measures; and

WHEREAS, chronic problems such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes and depression are often preventable or at least treatable at an early stage; and

WHEREAS, wellness and prevention programs can lead to lifestyle behavior changes that are key to decreasing health care costs; and

WHEREAS, use of tobacco products continues to impact health care costs adversely while tobacco settlement proceeds are used on initiatives other than tobacco research and cessation programs; and

WHEREAS, employers and employees continue to pay rising insurance premiums, often to offset uncompensated care costs and lower public program reimbursement levels; and

WHEREAS, tax incentives can provide initiatives for

employers, employees and individuals to obtain appropriate insurance for broad or specialized coverage as well as to increase coverage and thus spread the risk among larger groups of insured individuals; and

WHEREAS, the number of health care profession graduates from New Mexico colleges and universities has not kept pace with the attrition of health care professionals or with the demands of a growing population; and

WHEREAS, primary care clinics throughout the state provide an invaluable service for patients with limited or no access or coverage in rural and underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, consumer-driven, market-based health care reform efforts provide initiatives that can be more readily implemented and tested than public programs requiring extensive legislative or rulemaking procedures; and

WHEREAS, information technology and telecommunications offer an ability to streamline billing; claims processing; reimbursement; medical records storage and retrieval; and electronic prescriptions, databases and registries; as well as health care delivery and interfaces to remote and underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, the joint state-federal medicaid program continues to take a disproportionate amount of state and federal budget expenditures without a corresponding improvement in the health care profile of covered individuals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative health and human services committee be requested to review health care reform from a broad perspective that includes wellness and prevention measures and initiatives; early diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases; tax incentives to assist more employers and individuals in purchasing insurance; expansion of medical school, nursing school and other health care profession schools to increase the number of graduates entering the health care work force; funding for primary health care clinics that provide primary and preventive care to uninsured persons and in underserved areas; market-based reforms that provide consumers with choices that meet their respective needs; development of information technology resources that increases consistency of information, claims and reimbursement among payers, providers and patients; medicaid reforms that recognize the cost-effectiveness of programs for women and children while ensuring that the most vulnerable persons, the elderly and disabled, receive assistance through innovative and effective programs; and, in conjunction with the tobacco settlement revenue oversight committee, the study of tobacco-related illnesses and efforts to reduce tobacco use, particularly among the youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative health and

human services committee be requested to provide an appropriate forum to address these issues in a manner that allows the committee to consider and recommend broad and coordinated reform initiatives and work in conjunction with the tobacco settlement revenue oversight committee to address tobacco-related issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the legislative health and human services committee and the tobacco settlement revenue oversight committee.