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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 individuals;

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

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative health and

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

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

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