

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Nick L. Salazar

A JOINT MEMORIAL

ENDORING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FEDERAL INDIAN HEALTH CARE
IMPROVEMENT ACT.

WHEREAS, the federal Indian Health Care Improvement Act
was enacted by congress in 1976 but expired in 2000 and has not
yet been reauthorized; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans in New Mexico and across the
nation experience the highest rates of cancer, obesity,
diabetes and heart disease, yet are adversely affected by
limited access to health care due to chronic underfunding of
the Indian health service; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, through treaties entered
into with tribal entities, has the primary responsibility for
providing health care to the Native American population in New
Mexico and the United States; and

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1 WHEREAS, disparities in the health care provided to Native
2 Americans have been documented many times, including in the
3 July 2003 report of the United States commission on civil
4 rights, entitled "A Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet
5 Needs in Indian Country" and the September 2004 report of the
6 United States commission on civil rights, entitled "Broken
7 Promises: Evaluating the Native American Health Care System";
8 and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico and other states cannot bear sole
10 fiscal responsibility for providing adequate health care to
11 their Native American populations; and

12 WHEREAS, the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care
13 Improvement Act would provide fiscal and other assistance
14 necessary to improve the health care provided to Native
15 Americans; and

16 WHEREAS, reauthorization of the Indian Health Care
17 Improvement Act through fiscal year 2015 could have been
18 accomplished by congress through the passage of S. 1057, the
19 Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2005 that was
20 introduced on May 17, 2005; and

21 WHEREAS, a substitute for S. 1057 was reported favorably
22 out of the senate committee on Indian affairs on March 16, 2006
23 but no further senate action was taken on that bill; and

24 WHEREAS, reauthorization of the Indian Health Care
25 Improvement Act through fiscal year 2015 could have been

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1 accomplished by congress through the passage of H.R. 5312, the
2 Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2006 that was
3 introduced on May 9, 2005; and

4 WHEREAS, a substitute for H.R. 5312 was reported favorably
5 out of the house committee on resources on June 21, 2006 but no
6 further house action was taken on that bill;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it urge congress and the president of
9 the United States to prioritize the reauthorization of the
10 Indian Health Care Improvement Act early in the first session
11 of the one hundred tenth congress; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it support the addition of the
13 city of Albuquerque to the list of demonstration projects in
14 order to support vital health care services serving urban
15 Native Americans; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it support language in a
17 reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to
18 encourage state-Indian health service partnerships to provide
19 eligibility to workers in rural areas; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it support providing access to
21 residential treatment centers for Native American youth and
22 adolescents close to their homes on reservations in light of
23 the alarming rates of substance abuse and suicide within this
24 population in New Mexico; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the president of the United States; the
2 secretary of the United States department of the interior; the
3 president of the Navajo Nation; the speaker of the Navajo
4 Nation council; the president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe;
5 the president of the Jicarilla Apache Nation; the governors of
6 the nineteen Indian pueblos in New Mexico; the members of the
7 New Mexico congressional delegation; the governor; the
8 secretary of health; and the secretary of Indian affairs.

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