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HOUSE MEMORIAL 29

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

INTRODUCED BY

Irvin Harrison

A MEMORIAL

**URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE HEALTH SERVICES
TO WHICH NATIVE AMERICANS ARE ENTITLED BY TREATY.**

**WHEREAS, a shortfall of millions of dollars in the
federal Indian health service budget over recent years has
already resulted in a severe cutback in health care services
to the more than one hundred eighty thousand Native Americans
living in New Mexico; and**

**WHEREAS, requests for emergency appropriations from the
United States congress to the Indian health service have been
deferred due to the high cost of supporting the war in Iraq;
and**

**WHEREAS, delays in obtaining health care will discourage
Native Americans from seeking treatment in a timely manner and**

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1 may have a significant adverse effect on their state of
2 health; and

3 WHEREAS, cutbacks in Indian health services have affected
4 other health care providers and facilities, as deserving
5 patients no longer being served by the Indian health service
6 seek services elsewhere; and

7 WHEREAS, the country's trust obligation to fund services
8 for Native Americans deprived of their lands and traditional
9 ways and to provide access to adequate health care for Native
10 Americans is founded in treaty, statute, constitution and
11 ethics; and

12 WHEREAS, the Indian health service, prior to funding
13 cuts, spent an estimated one thousand nine hundred twenty
14 dollars (\$1,920) per patient, which is less than half the
15 amount spent for veterans, for federal prisoners or for
16 medicare recipients; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks second in the country in the
18 percentage of the population that is Native American;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
21 congressional delegation be requested to urge the United
22 States congress to adequately fund the Indian health service
23 to ensure that Native Americans in New Mexico receive the
24 health care to which they are entitled by treaty; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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underscored material = new
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1 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the
2 secretary of Indian affairs, the president of the Navajo
3 Nation, the speaker of the Navajo Nation council, the
4 president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the president of the
5 Jicarilla Apache Nation, the governors of the nineteen Indian
6 pueblos in New Mexico; the members of the New Mexico
7 congressional delegation, the federal secretary of health and
8 human services and the director of the federal Indian health
9 service.