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SENATE MEMORIAL 39

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Howie Morales

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE FEDERAL EXCELLENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH ACT.

WHEREAS, the federal Excellence in Mental Health Act would increase access to community behavioral health services for all Americans and improve medicaid reimbursement for community behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, the Excellence in Mental Health Act would create criteria for federally qualified community behavioral health centers, as entities designed to serve individuals with serious mental illnesses and addiction disorders, that provide intensive, person-centered, multidisciplinary, evidence-based screening, assessment, diagnostics, treatment, prevention and wellness services; and

WHEREAS, community behavioral health centers are currently

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1 excluded from the minimum reimbursement privileges medicaid  
2 makes available to federally qualified health centers and rural  
3 health clinics, and the Excellence in Mental Health Act would  
4 extend these privileges to federally qualified community  
5 behavioral health centers; and

6 WHEREAS, the Excellence in Mental Health Act would create  
7 a state-administered loan fund to support the modernization and  
8 construction of community-based mental health and addiction  
9 treatment facilities; and

10 WHEREAS, the Excellence in Mental Health Act would extend  
11 eligibility for discounted pharmaceutical products to federally  
12 qualified community behavioral health centers; and

13 WHEREAS, the Excellence in Mental Health Act would elevate  
14 behavioral health to be on par with the rest of health care,  
15 giving community behavioral health centers the opportunity to  
16 continue to provide services to New Mexico residents in need of  
17 quality behavioral health services; and

18 WHEREAS, the Excellence in Mental Health Act was  
19 introduced in the United States senate during the second  
20 session of the one hundred eleventh congress; and

21 WHEREAS, the one hundred eleventh congress ended January  
22 3, 2011, before the Excellence in Mental Health Act had a  
23 chance to be voted on by the congress; and

24 WHEREAS, to be voted on by the congress and passed into  
25 law, the Excellence in Mental Health Act must be reintroduced

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1 in the one hundred twelfth United States congress;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
3 OF NEW MEXICO that the congressional delegation be requested to  
4 do everything it can to have the Excellence in Mental Health  
5 Act reintroduced during the one hundred twelfth congress; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congressional delegation  
7 be requested to support the Excellence in Mental Health Act  
8 should it be introduced in the one hundred twelfth congress;  
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the congressional delegation and the New Mexico  
12 legislature.