

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN NEW MEXICO AND REQUESTING THAT IT REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND TO THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2012.

WHEREAS, public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles and research for disease and injury prevention; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals analyze the effects of genetics, personal choice and the environment on health in order to develop programs to protect the health of families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the field of public health is highly varied and encompasses many academic disciplines such as behavioral science and health education, biostatistics, environmental health, epidemiology, nutrition and maternal and child health, as well as public health policy; and

WHEREAS, there are forty-seven accredited schools of public health in the United States, with only seven schools of public health located west of the Mississippi river, and New Mexico is not among them; and

WHEREAS, the accredited public health programs at New

Mexico state university and the university of New Mexico are not offered through a school of public health; and

WHEREAS, schools of public health command prestige by attracting talented faculty and top students, create employment opportunities and make a substantial impact on regional public health; and

WHEREAS, schools of public health have access to federal funds for which other institutions are not eligible, and they are more competitive in efforts to secure outside funding from federal agencies such as the national institutes of health, the centers for disease control and prevention and the department of health and human services; and

WHEREAS, increased funding translates into increased public health research, development of effective interventions to address public health problems, health disparity reduction, improvement in health indicators and more jobs for New Mexico residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be requested to study the feasibility of establishing a school of public health in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education department be requested to report the findings of its school of public health feasibility study to the legislative health and human services committee and to the legislative finance

committee by November 1, 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the higher education department, the legislative health and human services committee and the legislative finance committee.