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HOUSE MEMORIAL 61

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Yvette Herrell

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC
EDUCATION TO CREATE A SCHOOL NURSE TASK FORCE TO ASSESS THE
CURRENT NEW MEXICO SCHOOL NURSE STAFFING MODELS AND TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE SAFE AND LEGAL CARE FOR STUDENTS IN
PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, for many students, the school nurse is the only
health care provider a student visits; and

WHEREAS, school nurses deal with major health issues,
including asthma, allergies, obesity and diabetes, emergency
administration of medication, medication management, disaster
preparedness, crisis management, immunizations, mental health,
oral health, visual health, school wellness policies, violence
and bullying and much more; and

WHEREAS, school nurses also coordinate and manage the

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1 health needs of special education students; and

2 WHEREAS, the absence of a school nurse results in a loss
3 of teacher productivity spent on addressing student health
4 issues, increased student absenteeism and a parent's
5 productivity loss costs associated with a student's early
6 dismissal or medication administration; and

7 WHEREAS, the New Mexico school health manual recommends
8 that school health programs provide opportunities for all
9 students to develop healthy behaviors, and all New Mexico
10 schools are required to provide or make provisions for school
11 health care programs that address the health needs of students
12 and staff; and

13 WHEREAS, public education department rules require support
14 service programs that include health service provided by public
15 education department-licensed registered nurses and that meet
16 the health needs of students with disabilities; and

17 WHEREAS, new department of health rules establish
18 standards for the administration of emergency medications in
19 schools; and

20 WHEREAS, currently, only twenty-one school districts have
21 one part-time nurse per district, and four school districts
22 have no nurse at all;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
25 of health and the secretary of public education be requested to

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1 convene a school nurse task force to propose New Mexico school
2 nurse staffing models in schools and to make recommendations;
3 and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
5 representatives from the department of health, the public
6 education department, the board of nursing, school nurses, the
7 New Mexico school superintendents association, the New Mexico
8 school boards association and other appropriate health care
9 providers; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
11 make recommendations to the legislative finance committee and
12 the legislative health and human services committee to address
13 any possible disparities caused by a lack of nursing services
14 to students and to develop a plan to address those disparities
15 by October 1, 2015; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of health and the secretary of
18 public education.