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HOUSE MEMORIAL 32

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Rodolpho “Rudy” S. Martinez and Harry Garcia and
Randal S. Crowder and Eliseo Lee Alcon and Debra M. Sariñana

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO OFFICE FOR COMMUNITY
HEALTH, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING AND SCHOOL OF
ENGINEERING TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY TRANSPORTATION
CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FOR VETERANS LIVING IN RURAL
COMMUNITIES WHO SEEK HEALTH SERVICES FROM THE FEDERAL VETERANS
AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND OTHERS.

WHEREAS, a high percentage of New Mexicans have military
service-related health problems that qualify them for access to
the veterans health administration; and

WHEREAS, the veterans health administration has rules and
regulations that are not well known and often misunderstood,
causing difficulty for veterans to access health care locally
and regionally within New Mexico or in other states; and

WHEREAS, excessive travel times, scheduling challenges,

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1 long waiting periods, unpredictable local services at
2 community-based outpatient clinics and other challenges create
3 an undue burden on veterans, many of whom have serious and
4 multiple health conditions; and

5 WHEREAS, other public health recipients, such as medicaid-
6 and medicare-eligible individuals, who may also be veterans
7 experience difficulty in accessing health care within a
8 reasonable distance of their resident communities;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the university
11 of New Mexico be requested to convene, by May 1, 2019, a task
12 force to address specific needs for improvements to the state's
13 transportation and health care systems when serving veterans;
14 and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop a
16 strategic plan to address those concerns, including measurable
17 outcomes to help ensure that public investments in improvements
18 to that system are as efficient and effective as possible; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
20 representatives of the following:

21 A. the university of New Mexico office for
22 community health, which representative shall serve as the chair
23 of the task force;

24 B. the university of New Mexico school of
25 architecture and planning;

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- 1 C. the university of New Mexico school of
- 2 engineering;
- 3 D. the veterans' services department;
- 4 E. the New Mexico veterans affairs health care
- 5 system;
- 6 F. the department of transportation;
- 7 G. the American hospital association center for
- 8 health innovation;
- 9 H. the New Mexico alliance of health councils; and
- 10 I. up to four additional members appointed by the
- 11 chair of the task force; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico
13 be requested to provide a report of the task force's findings
14 and recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative
15 committee by October 31, 2019; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the president and the chancellor for health
18 sciences of the university of New Mexico, the secretary of
19 veterans' services, the secretary of transportation, the
20 director of the New Mexico veterans administration health care
21 system, the president of the American hospital association
22 center for health innovation and the chair of the New Mexico
23 alliance of health councils.