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HOUSE MEMORIAL 50

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

INTRODUCED BY

Tomás E. Salazar and Joseph L. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL  
MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES AT ALL LEVELS OF CARE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico faces significant challenges in access  
to health care due to its large rural and frontier areas, with  
thirty-four percent of the state's two million one hundred  
thousand residents living in rural or frontier counties; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's geographically sparse and aging  
population puts pressure on its health care system, and the  
racial and ethnic diversity of the state compared to the United  
States poses challenges in providing culturally sensitive  
health care; and

WHEREAS, there is limited access to health care in New  
Mexico, which is related to primary care provider shortages and  
lack of awareness of insurance availability, according to *The*

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1     *State of Health in New Mexico 2018*, issued by the department of  
2     health in April 2018; and

3             WHEREAS, New Mexico is experiencing a shortage in primary  
4     care and family practice providers; and

5             WHEREAS, as New Mexico goes through a significant  
6     transition in providing health care services, the following  
7     need to be considered:

8             A.    coordination of rural health care services,  
9     school-based health clinics and private and public sector  
10    hospitals;

11            B.    the need for health care providers in larger  
12    communities such as Raton, Clayton and Las Vegas to collaborate  
13    with the many small communities surrounding them;

14            C.    coordination and collaboration among health care  
15    providers to include inpatient and outpatient strategies that  
16    are consistent and well coordinated;

17            D.    transportation needs of patients in rural areas  
18    to access health care;

19            E.    the feasibility of telemedicine and educational  
20    outreach for the more rural health care facilities; and

21            F.    other related and important components of health  
22    care delivery to improve the quality of care, effectiveness,  
23    confidence in medical services and minimization of duplication  
24    of efforts; and

25            WHEREAS, faced with the challenges of a shortage of

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1 doctors, nurses and other health care providers, it is  
2 important that the department of health and state health  
3 providers continue to communicate with each other to ensure  
4 proactive preventive health care to keep the populations in  
5 communities of all sizes as healthy as possible; and

6 WHEREAS, increased cooperation among health care providers  
7 will provide the ability to serve patients at all levels of  
8 needed care, from preventive to terminal, with a goal of  
9 providing quality health care at every level;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that regional mental  
12 and physical health service providers be encouraged to  
13 collaborate to provide exceptional service at all levels of  
14 care; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the secretary of health and the president of the  
17 New Mexico hospital association for distribution.