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HOUSE MEMORIAL 39

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH AN
INTERDISCIPLINARY PRIMARY CARE TASK FORCE TO DEFINE PRIMARY
CARE AND ANALYZE NEW MEXICO'S MEDICAID EXPENDITURES CURRENTLY
ALLOCATED TO PRIMARY CARE.

WHEREAS, primary care is an essential component of New
Mexico's health care system and the initial point of contact
for most patient entry into the health care delivery system;
and

WHEREAS, primary care practitioners and the primary care
system are critical to health care network accessibility,
service delivery and system efficiency; and

WHEREAS, primary care is the provision of integrated,
equitable and accessible health care services by clinicians who
are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal

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1 health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with
2 patients and practicing in the context of family and community;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, primary care includes health promotion, disease
5 prevention, health maintenance, counseling, patient education
6 and diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses
7 provided by a wide variety of health care practitioners in a
8 wide variety of health care settings; and

9 WHEREAS, a shared definition of primary care has not yet
10 been adopted by the state; and

11 WHEREAS, primary care has been demonstrated to be
12 associated with increased access to health care services,
13 improved health outcomes, reduced mortality and decreased
14 hospitalization and use of the emergency department; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico has long had a shortage of primary
16 care services, especially in rural and frontier areas; and

17 WHEREAS, twenty-nine other states have adopted policies,
18 systems and models to enhance primary care access, financing,
19 coordination and service delivery pursuant to the
20 recommendations of various state-initiated collaborative
21 efforts; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico lacks a comprehensive system to
23 monitor the allocation of health care expenditures across
24 different types of health care services, including primary
25 care; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico is developing more robust systems for
2 the compilation and exchange of health systems data, and these
3 data can be utilized to inform public policy and gauge the
4 impact of public policies; and

5 WHEREAS, an analysis of the portion of medicaid
6 expenditures devoted to primary care would help inform the
7 current understanding of the needs of primary care in New
8 Mexico to be applied to the shortage of access and resources
9 for primary care;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
12 of human services be requested to establish an
13 interdisciplinary primary care task force to adopt a shared
14 definition of primary care and to analyze the share of New
15 Mexico's medicaid expenditures currently allocated to primary
16 care; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of human
18 services be requested to include the following participants in
19 the interdisciplinary primary care task force:

20 A. representatives from the university of New
21 Mexico school of medicine's department of family and community
22 medicine;

23 B. representatives of the department of health;

24 C. representatives of the human services
25 department;

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