

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY TO CONDUCT  
3 A STUDY THAT EVALUATES THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING HEALTH  
4 COVERAGE TO ALL BRAIN INJURY PATIENTS AND THE FEASIBILITY OF  
5 ESTABLISHING A BRAIN INJURY REGISTRY THAT TRACKS BRAIN INJURY  
6 STATISTICS ACROSS NEW MEXICO.

7  
8 WHEREAS, approximately two million people a year are  
9 treated in emergency rooms across the country for brain  
10 injuries; and

11 WHEREAS, there are many causes of brain injuries,  
12 including trauma to the brain, ischemic and hemorrhagic  
13 stroke, anoxic injury after cardiac arrest or drug overdose,  
14 severe brain infection, brain tumors and neurotoxic injury;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, there are over one hundred thousand adult  
17 New Mexicans who are in need of ongoing treatment for their  
18 brain injuries; and

19 WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries kill more people in  
20 New Mexico each year than opioid overdoses; and

21 WHEREAS, those who survive brain injuries are at greater  
22 risk of developing dementia and behavioral health issues; and

23 WHEREAS, the health care system in most of New Mexico  
24 has little to no capacity to appropriately identify and treat  
25 people living with brain injuries; and

1           WHEREAS, providing and funding adequate coverage for  
2 brain injury services and supports creates new jobs and  
3 business opportunities, while allowing individuals with brain  
4 injuries to remain in New Mexico rather than being forced to  
5 seek care out of state; and

6           WHEREAS, several states have developed health coverage  
7 legislation or billing codes for proper treatment and  
8 coverage for brain injury services and supports without  
9 significantly raising premium rates for the general public;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, currently, health coverage laws in New Mexico  
12 do not require the provision of adequate supports and  
13 services for individuals living with brain injuries; and

14           WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to break the cycle of  
15 violence, poverty, incarceration, institutional care,  
16 isolation, overburdened support systems, substandard living  
17 conditions and homelessness that has too often been the fate  
18 of individuals living with brain injuries;

19           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor's commission on  
21 disability be requested to conduct a study on the feasibility  
22 of:

23           A. requiring health insurance coverage to provide  
24 a continuum of health care, therapeutic services and job  
25 development services that individuals living with brain

1 injuries and related conditions require for recovery and  
2 maximum independence; and

3 B. establishing a brain injury registry to track  
4 the occurrence, functional outcome and effectiveness of brain  
5 injury treatment; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor's commission on  
7 disability consult with representatives of the office of  
8 superintendent of insurance, the human services department,  
9 the department of health, the brain injury alliance of  
10 New Mexico, the university of New Mexico department of  
11 psychology clinic, the risk management division of the  
12 general services department, the retiree health care  
13 authority, the public school insurance authority, the  
14 Albuquerque public school district and the United States  
15 department of health and human services to complete the  
16 feasibility studies; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor's commission on  
18 disability be requested to report findings and  
19 recommendations to the legislative health and human services  
20 committee and the legislative finance committee by November  
21 1, 2023; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the governor's  
24 commission on disability, the chair and vice chair of the  
25 legislative health and human services committee, the chair

1 and vice chair of the legislative finance committee, the  
2 United States secretary of health and human services, the  
3 superintendent of insurance, the brain injury alliance of  
4 New Mexico, the university of New Mexico department of  
5 psychology clinic, the director of the risk management  
6 division of the general services department, the director of  
7 the retiree health care authority, the director of the public  
8 school insurance authority, the secretary of public education  
9 and the superintendent of the Albuquerque public school  
10 district.

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