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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 7

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
1996

INTRODUCED BY
JOHN PINTO

AN ACT

SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO NATION'S REQUEST FOR THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCLUDE FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000) IN THE FISCAL YEAR 1997 INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE BUDGET FOR THE PHASE III STAFFING OF SEVENTY-TWO FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES FOR THE NORTHERN NAVAJO MEDICAL CENTER IN SHIPROCK.

WHEREAS, the construction of the northern Navajo medical center was completed in the fall of 1994, and the center opened for operation in February 1995, having been in the planning stages for many years; and

WHEREAS, the northern Navajo medical center was funded and constructed to replace a smaller, crowded and old facility and to meet the growing demands for health and medical care in its service area that has a current population of forty-five

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1 thousand people but which is increasing annually at a rate of
2 three percent; and

3 WHEREAS, the northern Navajo medical center opened with the
4 same level of staff as the old facility, although additional
5 staff had been approved, the effect of which was to allow use of
6 fifty beds out of the seventy-five available, solely due to
7 staff limitations; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States congress and the Indian health
9 service agreed to phase in three hundred fifty-seven additional
10 full-time-equivalent staff positions over three fiscal years,
11 specifically 1995, 1996 and 1997; and

12 WHEREAS, although funds were appropriated in fiscal year
13 1995 for one hundred seventy full-time-equivalent positions and
14 in fiscal year 1996 for one hundred fifteen full-time-equivalent
15 employees, with current budget reductions expected within all
16 federal programs, the likelihood of funding for all three
17 hundred fifty-seven additional positions is minimal;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the Navajo nation's request
20 for the United States congress to include five million dollars
21 (\$5,000,000) in the fiscal year 1997 Indian health service
22 budget for the phase III staffing of seventy-two full-time-
23 equivalent employees for the northern Navajo medical center in
24 Shiprock; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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transmitted to the United States congress.