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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 60

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

INTRODUCED BY

PATSY TRUJILLO KNAUER

FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A STUDY OF INCREASING AVAILABILITY OF EMPLOYEE  
HEALTH INSURANCE FROM CERTAIN EMPLOYERS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico, sadly, is a national leader among  
states with high percentages of individuals and families  
living without health insurance, even though most uninsured  
adults are employed; and

WHEREAS, more than fifty-six percent of uninsured New  
Mexico families have a single full-time wage earner, and an  
additional fourteen percent of our uninsured families have two  
full-time wage earners; and

WHEREAS, only slightly more than fifty percent of New  
Mexico employers offer health insurance, though their number  
includes ninety-four percent of the employers of more than  
fifty employees; and

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1           WHEREAS, the legislature has enacted the Health Insurance  
2 Alliance Act to assist our small businesses to offer  
3 reasonable health insurance coverage to their employees; and

4           WHEREAS, approximately one thousand New Mexico businesses  
5 participate in the alliance to offer their employees health  
6 insurance; and

7           WHEREAS, various New Mexico tax savings, subsidies and  
8 training efforts are well designed to encourage creation of  
9 permanent jobs in our state, but not all of the employers  
10 benefiting from these programs offer their employees health  
11 insurance; and

12           WHEREAS, the state needs to encourage all employers to  
13 follow the example of the most far-sighted businesses that  
14 offer employee health insurance as a matter of course to  
15 obtain and retain high quality employees; and

16           WHEREAS, New Mexico taxpayers, either through medicaid or  
17 the various county indigent funds, ultimately pick up the bill  
18 for delivery of health care to the uninsured; and

19           WHEREAS, it behooves the state of New Mexico, in the name  
20 of all of its citizens, to establish the highest standards for  
21 those businesses it chooses to assist, including reasonable  
22 employee benefits and employee health insurance;

23           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy  
25 commission study the possibilities and advisability of

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1 requiring all businesses receiving various benefits, directly  
2 and indirectly, from the state or participating in state  
3 programs having the effect of subsidizing any part of their  
4 operation to offer their employees access to reasonable and  
5 adequate health insurance; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretaries of economic  
7 development and human services and the superintendent of  
8 insurance, or their designees, cooperate in this study; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico health policy  
10 commission seek participation from statewide insurance  
11 organizations, including those that assist small businesses to  
12 obtain health insurance for their employees; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
14 sent to the chairman of the New Mexico health policy  
15 commission for appropriate distribution.

16 - 3 -