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HOUSE MEMORIAL 29

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE TO CONVENE A GROUP OF DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS WITH EXPERTISE IN THE AREA OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY, HEALTH COVERAGE AND HEALTH CARE FINANCE TO DETERMINE THE VALUE AND FEASIBILITY OF A HEALTH CARE COST, QUALITY AND COORDINATION COMMISSION IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, according to the United States department of health and human services, federal health care reforms have resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of uninsured residents of New Mexico, with the rate in the state dropping from twenty percent in 2011 to ten and two-tenths' percent in 2016; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2015 legislative finance committee report, the drop in New Mexico's rate of uninsured residents has resulted in a reduction in hospitals' and other health care

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1 providers' statewide unreimbursed care burden; and

2 WHEREAS, the congressional budget office predicts that
3 further changes to cost-sharing subsidies on health insurance
4 exchanges nationwide will result in increases in the federal
5 budget by six billion dollars (\$6,000,000,000) in 2018, by
6 twenty-one billion dollars (\$21,000,000,000) in 2020 and by
7 twenty-six billion dollars (\$26,000,000,000) in 2026, all of
8 which will likely decrease allocations in federal health care
9 appropriations to states; and

10 WHEREAS, the federal government is signaling states to
11 take responsibility for managing health care costs, including
12 ceding greater control over state medicaid programs; and

13 WHEREAS, a 2017 report by the Milbank memorial fund on
14 state models for health care cost measurement indicates that no
15 one payer source can influence care or outcomes across the
16 system; and

17 WHEREAS, the need for a review of many sectors of health
18 care payers has led six states whose leadership is concerned
19 with health care costs in their states to create health care
20 cost commissions or related agencies charged with reviewing
21 health care costs across state agencies and among private payer
22 sources; and

23 WHEREAS, health care costs are consuming an increasing
24 percentage of the New Mexico state budget, which necessitates
25 that the state seek ways to manage health care costs without

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1 causing widespread disruption; and

2 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, there is currently no government
3 agency, commission or other entity charged with reviewing
4 health care costs across state agencies and among private payer
5 sources and making recommendations for containing these costs
6 while maintaining access to high-quality health care for all
7 New Mexico residents;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
10 superintendent of insurance be requested to convene a group of
11 diverse stakeholders with expertise in the area of health care
12 delivery, health coverage and health care finance to conduct a
13 health care quality and cost study that performs the following:

14 A. a review of similar health care commissions and
15 agencies in other states, including the structure and funding
16 for these entities and a review of these entities'
17 effectiveness in addressing health care quality and cost;

18 B. an assessment of the value to the state in
19 creating a commission charged with reviewing health care costs
20 across state agencies and among private payer sources and
21 making recommendations for containing these costs while
22 maintaining access to high-quality health care for all New
23 Mexico residents;

24 C. an assessment of the health care costs in every
25 health sector and in federal, state and county health service

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1 sectors;

2 D. the costs of establishing a health care cost and
3 quality commission in New Mexico;

4 E. the relationship between a health care cost and
5 quality commission and other health-related entities, including
6 the human services department, the department of health, the
7 office of superintendent of insurance, the New Mexico health
8 insurance exchange and county and tribal health entities; and

9 F. the impact that taking no action to conduct a
10 cross-sector review of health care quality and cost in New
11 Mexico would have on the state; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the superintendent of
13 insurance be requested to report results of the health care
14 quality and cost study to the legislative health and human
15 services committee by October 1, 2018; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the governor, the chair and vice chair of the
18 legislative health and human services committee, the secretary
19 of human services, the secretary of health, the superintendent
20 of insurance and the executive director of the New Mexico
21 health insurance exchange.