

HOUSE MEMORIAL 31

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY TO REEVALUATE CERTAIN HOME
HEALTH SERVICE DISTANCE LIMITATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO CARE
IN RURAL, FRONTIER AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, home health agencies play a critical role in delivering medically necessary skilled nursing, therapy and supportive services that allow New Mexico residents to receive care in their homes rather than in institutional settings; and

WHEREAS, the health care authority's current administrative rules limit a home health agency to serving patient-clients who reside within one hundred miles of the agency's licensed location; and

WHEREAS, this limitation creates administrative and operational burdens for home health agencies, particularly those serving large geographic areas with sparse populations,

underscored material = new
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1 limited infrastructure and workforce shortages; and

2 WHEREAS, the reauthorization of the federal Radiation
3 Exposure Compensation Act is expected to increase demand for
4 home health services among uranium miners and millers, many of
5 whom reside in remote frontier areas and on Navajo Nation
6 tribal lands; and

7 WHEREAS, these communities already face significant
8 barriers to accessing health care services due to geographic
9 isolation, transportation challenges and limited availability
10 of providers; and

11 WHEREAS, the current distance-based limitation on home
12 health services creates a regulatory barrier that may
13 unintentionally limit access to medically necessary care for
14 eligible patients in these underserved regions; and

15 WHEREAS, the personal care services program administered
16 by the health care authority allows providers to serve patients
17 in any county within one hundred miles of a provider's main or
18 branch office, offering a more flexible and access-oriented
19 regulatory framework; and

20 WHEREAS, aligning the health care authority's rules
21 governing home health service with existing personal care
22 service policies would promote consistency across programs
23 while maintaining appropriate oversight and quality standards;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the health care

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1 authority be requested to reevaluate the administrative rules
2 governing home health agency service areas, including the rule
3 that limits a home health agency to serving patient-clients who
4 reside within one hundred miles of the agency's licensed
5 location; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this reevaluation prioritize
7 improving access to home health services for rural, frontier
8 and tribal communities, including populations impacted by
9 radiation exposure; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the secretary of health care authority, the
12 governor and the legislative health and human services
13 committee.

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