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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A
WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR MAXIMIZING THE
LEVERAGING OF FEDERAL MEDICAID DOLLARS.

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has availed itself of
the opportunity offered pursuant to the federal Patient
Protection and Affordable Care Act to expand eligibility for
the state medicaid program, thereby greatly increasing access
to health care for thousands of New Mexicans as well as
reimbursement for New Mexico health care providers; and

WHEREAS, partly as a result of expanding medicaid
eligibility, the rate of uninsured adults has declined from
over eighteen percent in 2013 to thirteen and one-tenth
percent as of the second quarter of 2015; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2015 legislative finance
committee report, between fiscal years 2014 and 2015, there
has been a thirty percent drop in uncompensated care among
the state's safety net care pool hospitals, and this drop is
attributable in part to the expansion of medicaid; and

WHEREAS, federal law contemplates a reduction in the
burden of uncompensated care in the state; therefore, federal
reimbursements are being limited accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable
Care Act offers multiple incentives and opportunities for

1 states to maximize medicaid funding; and

2 WHEREAS, the 2015 legislative finance committee report
3 identifies many potential opportunities for the human
4 services department, the department of health and community
5 health care providers to maximize their leveraging of
6 medicaid funding that have not yet been attempted; and

7 WHEREAS, maximizing federal medicaid dollars for
8 services currently provided by the state will reduce the
9 burden on the general fund while increasing access to health
10 care;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of human services be
13 requested to convene a working group that includes
14 representatives from the department of health, the children,
15 youth and families department, legislative finance committee
16 staff, the New Mexico association of counties, the New Mexico
17 primary care association, the southwest center for health
18 innovation and the New Mexico hospital association to
19 investigate and develop strategies for maximizing federal
20 medicaid dollars for the state; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance
22 committee be requested to provide staff to the working group
23 to assist it in carrying out its work; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
25 requested to receive input and recommendations from the

1 public; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by November 1, 2016, the
3 working group be requested to report to the governor, the
4 legislative finance committee and the legislative health and
5 human services committee its recommendations and proposed
6 action steps for administrative, legislative, regulatory,
7 operational and financial initiatives necessary to maximize
8 federal medicaid funds for the state; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of human services,
11 the director of the legislative finance committee and the
12 chair and vice chair of the legislative health and human
13 services committee. _____

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