

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO OFFICE FOR COMMUNITY
3 HEALTH, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING AND SCHOOL OF
4 ENGINEERING TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY
5 TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FOR VETERANS LIVING
6 IN RURAL COMMUNITIES WHO SEEK HEALTH SERVICES FROM THE
7 FEDERAL VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND OTHERS.

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9 WHEREAS, a high percentage of New Mexicans have military
10 service-related health problems that qualify them for access
11 to the veterans health administration; and

12 WHEREAS, the veterans health administration has rules
13 and regulations that are not well known and often
14 misunderstood, causing difficulty for veterans to access
15 health care locally and regionally within New Mexico or in
16 other states; and

17 WHEREAS, excessive travel times, scheduling challenges,
18 long waiting periods, unpredictable local services at
19 community-based outpatient clinics and other challenges
20 create an undue burden on veterans, many of whom have serious
21 and multiple health conditions; and

22 WHEREAS, other public health recipients, such as
23 medicaid- and medicare-eligible individuals, who may also be
24 veterans experience difficulty in accessing health care
25 within a reasonable distance of their resident communities;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
3 university of New Mexico be requested to convene, by May 1,
4 2019, a task force to address specific needs for improvements
5 to the state's transportation and health care systems when
6 serving veterans; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop a
8 strategic plan to address those concerns, including
9 measurable outcomes to help ensure that public investments in
10 improvements to that system are as efficient and effective as
11 possible; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed
13 of representatives of the following:

14 A. the university of New Mexico office for
15 community health, which representative shall serve as the
16 chair of the task force;

17 B. the university of New Mexico school of
18 architecture and planning;

19 C. the university of New Mexico school of
20 engineering;

21 D. the veterans' services department;

22 E. the New Mexico veterans affairs health care
23 system;

24 F. the department of transportation;

25 G. the American hospital association center for

1 health innovation;

2 H. the New Mexico alliance of health councils; and

3 I. up to four additional members appointed by the
4 chair of the task force; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico
6 be requested to provide a report of the task force's findings
7 and recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative
8 committee by October 31, 2019; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the president and the chancellor for health
11 sciences of the university of New Mexico, the secretary of
12 veterans' services, the secretary of transportation, the
13 director of the New Mexico veterans administration health care
14 system, the president of the American hospital association
15 center for health innovation and the chair of the New Mexico
16 alliance of health councils. _____

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