

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 6

2 **44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,**
3 **2000**

4 INTRODUCED BY

5 Linda M.Lopez
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8
9 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
10

11 A JOINT MEMORIAL

12 REQUESTING THE EARLY PERIODIC SCREENING DIAGNOSIS AND TESTING
13 STEERING COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BOTH
14 THE SCREENING DIAGNOSIS PROCESS AND FOLLOW-UP TREATMENT FOR
15 NEW MEXICO'S MEDICAID CHILDREN AND YOUTH.
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18 WHEREAS, recent figures show that approximately two
19 hundred thousand eligible children are enrolled in medicaid,
20 including more than thirty thousand newly enrolled in the
21 past two years; and

22 WHEREAS, there are still an estimated sixty-seven
23 thousand children eligible but not enrolled in medicaid; and

24 WHEREAS, medicaid children, whether enrolled in managed
25 care or a fee-for-service program, are eligible for early
periodic screening diagnosis and testing (EPSDT); and

WHEREAS, EPSDT is considered to be one of the most
effective and efficient prevention and early intervention

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1 tools in the health care field; and

2 WHEREAS, the EPSDT program offers comprehensive health
3 and developmental histories, assessments of physical and
4 mental health development, complete physical examinations,
5 age appropriate immunizations, various laboratory tests,
6 health education, diagnoses and a full continuum of health
7 care treatment for children enrolled in medicaid from birth
8 to age twenty-one; and

9 WHEREAS, SALUD managed care organizations are paid to
10 provide EPSDT services, whether performed or not; and

11 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the children,
12 the managed care organizations and the state for health care
13 problem identification and follow-up treatment to be
14 accomplished at the earliest possible time; and

15 WHEREAS, recognizing that too many families are not
16 taking advantage of the EPSDT program, the human services
17 department, the department of health, the children, youth and
18 families department, the state department of public
19 education, the three SALUD managed care organizations and
20 interested advocates and organizations formed the EPSDT
21 steering committee; and

22 WHEREAS, the EPSDT steering committee has established
23 priorities for improving the program in four major categories
24 and is recommending policy changes accordingly; and

25 WHEREAS, the New Mexico first town hall has chosen
improved participation in and functioning of the EPSDT
program as a very high priority, aiming for ninety percent

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1 participation by 2002;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the EPSDT steering committee
4 continue its efforts to improve both the quality of the EPSDT
5 program and the rate of participation by New Mexico's
6 medicaid children and youth; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the behavior health managed
8 care organizations serving medicaid clients be invited to
9 participate in the EPSDT steering committee; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the EPSDT steering committee
11 develop recommendations to encourage families to continue to
12 use the program beyond initial early testing, so that older
13 children and early and middle adolescents have the advantage
14 of the EPSDT program's medical and behavioral health care and
15 guidance on critical behavioral issues; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all parties responsible for
17 parental notification and follow-up be required to do so to
18 the maximum extent required by federal law; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services
20 department give a progress report on the EPSDT program and
21 steering committee recommendations to the interim legislative
22 health and human services committee at both its first meeting
23 and its October meeting in 2000; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this joint
25 memorial be sent to each of the departments, agencies,
managed care organizations and other participants of the
EPSDT steering committee.

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