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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 25**  
**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003**

**INTRODUCED BY**  
Kandy Cordova

**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONTINUE TO STUDY**  
**APPROPRIATE NURSING HOME ACUITY-BASED STAFFING AND**  
**REIMBURSEMENT METHODS AND TO CLOSELY MONITOR NURSING FACILITY**  
**QUALITY OF CARE TO ENSURE RESIDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

**WHEREAS, quality of care in nursing homes is a primary**  
**goal of the department of health, the nursing home industry and**  
**the state agency on aging; and**

**WHEREAS, providing adequate staffing to ensure quality**  
**care in nursing facilities has been studied for several years;**  
**and**

**WHEREAS, the department of health established a rule**  
**setting minimum staffing requirements effective August 2000;**  
**and**

**WHEREAS, though all facilities are now compliant with the**

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1 minimum staffing requirements, this rule does not ensure that  
2 all residents' needs are met on a daily basis; and

3 WHEREAS, acuity-based staffing and reimbursement methods  
4 address still unresolved issues of quality, but are very costly  
5 to implement; and

6 WHEREAS, the department of health and the state agency on  
7 aging have been studying this issue through the acuity-based  
8 staffing subcommittee and made a presentation of their findings  
9 to the interim legislative health and human services committee  
10 in October 2002; and

11 WHEREAS, the subcommittee suggests that residents of  
12 nursing homes in New Mexico would benefit from an acuity-based  
13 staffing reimbursement system, but that without adequate  
14 funding, such a system cannot be implemented; and

15 WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of this subcommittee  
16 that the issue continue to be researched;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested  
19 to continue studying appropriate nursing home acuity-based  
20 staffing and reimbursement methods; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department continue to  
22 closely monitor nursing facility quality of care to ensure  
23 resident health and safety; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study evaluate the current  
25 payment methodology for nursing facility care and make

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1 recommendations for funding an acuity-based reimbursement  
2 system; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health  
4 report progress and legislative recommendations to the interim  
5 legislative health and human services committee no later than  
6 its October 2003 meeting; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the department of health, the state agency on  
9 aging, the human services department, statewide provider  
10 associations representing nursing homes, the interim  
11 legislative health and human services committee and other  
12 appropriate groups.

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