

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 44

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

J. Paul Taylor

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT POLICIES THAT
WILL PROVIDE IMPROVED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, connections among school, community and family
are critical elements required for protecting children's
health, safety and well-being; and

WHEREAS, primary care and behavioral health services are
vital components of a comprehensive approach to promoting
health and education and preventing illness among America's
children; and

WHEREAS, school children today experience the harmful
effects of major public health concerns, including poor
nutrition, tobacco use, violence and unintentional injury,
substance abuse and chronic disease such as asthma, obesity and

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 dental caries; and

2 WHEREAS, millions of children do not have access to
3 appropriate, affordable and timely preventive health care; and

4 WHEREAS, as schools are a logical and time-proven setting
5 in which to provide medical and behavioral health care to those
6 who would otherwise have no access to health care, support for
7 school-based health centers is an important strategy for
8 enhancing access to high quality health care for all children;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, school-based health centers:

11 A. improve children's access to health care by
12 overcoming financial and non-financial barriers to care such as
13 lack of health insurance, transportation difficulties, having
14 to miss school and insufficient attention to the particular
15 needs of adolescents;

16 B. ensure access to care for those students who are
17 the most vulnerable and least likely to obtain care through a
18 traditional health care delivery system;

19 C. strive to align students to a medical home and
20 communicate regularly with the primary care provider in a way
21 that enhances the coordination of health care delivery;

22 D. partner with parents in the health education and
23 health supervision of their children, creating connections for
24 the family that reinforce healthy behaviors; and

25 E. integrate their services into the school milieu

. 144352. 1

1 and support a comprehensive approach to health in the school
2 setting;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state board of education be
5 requested to establish a policy that recognizes the unique
6 characteristics and services delivered in school-based health
7 centers, ensures that school-based health centers are
8 adequately compensated for services provided to publicly
9 insured patients and establishes public health resources for
10 support to underserved children and adolescents; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the members of the state board of education.

13 - 3 -
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete