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1 successful and effective means of addressing the health and
2 social needs of people and communities; and

3 WHEREAS, community health workers serve as an extension of
4 professional health care providers and bridge cultural
5 differences by offering culturally and linguistically
6 appropriate care to underserved communities; and

7 WHEREAS, federal medicaid regulation requires appropriate
8 outreach, enrollment and translation services, which means
9 additional federal funding is available for the use of
10 increased community health worker services; and

11 WHEREAS, the current state and national medicaid and
12 health care crises will, without new resources, result in
13 reduced availability of services, and utilization of culturally
14 and linguistically appropriate care management through
15 community health workers can serve as a best-practice quality
16 measure in contract compliance; and

17 WHEREAS, the hundreds of community health workers, many
18 currently serving with little or no pay, are a ripe opportunity
19 for economic and community development through the provision of
20 recognition and steady fiscal support of their valuable
21 services; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico has an opportunity to replicate and
23 improve upon its existing community health advocate model to
24 address the state's pressing health needs, increase access to
25 care, promote economic development and ensure healthier

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1 communities;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
4 to lead a study on the development of a community health
5 advocacy program in New Mexico, including the program's
6 methods, structure, financing and implementation, that utilizes
7 various categories of community health workers; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislative recommendations be
9 developed to address economic opportunities for communities,
10 the potential of tax incentives as encouragement for employment
11 of community health workers by private health care providers
12 and the identification of matching grant opportunities for
13 outreach and training; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study examine the
15 potential for use of community health promoters as part of a
16 best-practice quality measure for medicaid and other contracted
17 providers; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department use existing
19 models to develop recommendations for curriculum, service
20 delivery, economic development and other aspects of a community
21 health advocacy program in New Mexico; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department,
23 the department of economic development, the department of
24 labor, the state department of public education, the children,
25 youth and families department, the state agency on aging and

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1 appropriate organizations representing the interests of
2 community health workers or utilizing the services of community
3 health workers participate in the study; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
5 report its legislative recommendations to the interim
6 legislative health and human services committee at its October
7 2003 meeting; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the department of health, the human services
10 department, the economic development department, the labor
11 department, the state department of public education, the
12 children, youth and families department, the state agency on
13 aging and appropriate organizations representing the interests
14 of community health workers, community health advocates,
15 promotoras and others.