

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 38

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CREATE A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY WAYS TO REQUIRE INSURERS TO COVER EARLY INTERVENTION
SERVICES FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS OR
DISABILITIES.

WHEREAS, children with developmental delays or
disabilities have substantial functional limitations related to
mental or physical impairments, including brain trauma; and

WHEREAS, early intervention services for children with
developmental delays or disabilities are needed from birth; and

WHEREAS, the earlier children are identified as
developmentally delayed or disabled and begin receiving
services, the more likely they will be to be able to live
independently; and

WHEREAS, families of developmentally delayed or disabled

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1 children need early intervention services to support their
2 children's growth and development; and

3 WHEREAS, the department of health operates a program of
4 early intervention services called the family infant toddler
5 program; and

6 WHEREAS, the number of infants and toddlers with
7 developmental delays or disabilities is increasing as New
8 Mexico's population grows; and

9 WHEREAS, early intervention services are generally not
10 covered by health insurance carriers and health maintenance
11 organizations; and

12 WHEREAS, other states have funded a significant percentage
13 of their overall program support for early intervention
14 services by accessing private health insurance benefits; and

15 WHEREAS, state funding of quality early intervention
16 services can result in cost savings over time; and

17 WHEREAS, providers of early intervention services for
18 infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities
19 have not received any rate increases for their services since
20 1997; and

21 WHEREAS, current rates for services do not adequately
22 support the cost of those services, as determined by a 2003
23 study conducted by the department of health's family infant
24 toddler program;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
2 to create a task force to study ways of assessing the
3 feasibility of requiring that insurers providing individual or
4 group accident and illness insurance policies expand their
5 coverage to early intervention services for infants and
6 toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities who are
7 eligible for part C of the Individuals with Disabilities
8 Education Act; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force include
10 representatives from advocacy groups, providers of care to
11 children with developmental delays or disabilities, parents of
12 developmentally delayed or disabled children, the department of
13 health and the insurance division of the public regulation
14 commission, as well as representatives of private health
15 insurance companies and health maintenance organizations
16 operating within New Mexico; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of this task
18 force be reported to the interim legislative health and human
19 services committee and the legislative finance committee by
20 their October 2004 meetings; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the secretary of health, the chair of the public
23 regulation commission, developmental delay or disability
24 advocacy organizations, providers of family infant toddler
25 program services, the association of developmental disabilities

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1 community providers, all health insurance companies and health
2 maintenance organizations operating within New Mexico, the
3 interim legislative health and human services committee and the
4 legislative finance committee.

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