

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 78

2 **46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Ramsay L. Gorham

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE GROUP BENEFITS COMMITTEE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE
12 TO REVIEW STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE.

13
14 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Group Benefits Act, the group
15 benefits committee is responsible for reviewing and advising
16 the director of the risk management division of the general
17 services department on all group benefits coverages; and

18 WHEREAS, only two state employees are members of the group
19 benefits committee; and

20 WHEREAS, numerous legislative initiatives have been
21 proposed to revise or reform state employees' health care
22 benefits and contributions; and

23 WHEREAS, the cost of health care and health insurance has
24 continued to increase by ten to fifteen percent per year over
25 the past several years; and

.150810.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, various studies estimate that seventy to ninety
2 percent of all illnesses are preventable; and

3 WHEREAS, numerous studies have identified healthy
4 lifestyles that include appropriate nutrition and exercise as
5 the best preventive medicine; and

6 WHEREAS, state employees are concerned about rising health
7 care costs and the impact on their take-home pay; and

8 WHEREAS, state employees may have their own perspective on
9 the need for mandated benefits, cost-sharing provisions,
10 catastrophic coverages and other employee-choice options; and

11 WHEREAS, state employees are concerned about their own
12 health as well as that of their families;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the group benefits committee be
15 requested to convene a task force to review the health care
16 plan afforded by state government to its employees and make
17 recommendations for changes to benefit structures,
18 contributions, wellness programs, tax or other incentives for
19 health care coverage and other initiatives to control health
20 care costs or at least the rate of growth; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include at
22 least twelve state employees, three-fourths of whom are subject
23 to the Personnel Act, with no more than one employee from a
24 single department or agency; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its

.150810.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and
2 human services committee and the legislative finance committee
3 by November 1, 2004 and provide two copies of its written
4 report to the legislative council service library; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the group benefits committee.

7 - 3 -

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25