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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 66

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

John T. L. Grubesi c

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO CREATE A
TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF WOMEN'S
HEALTH FOR THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, the national state-by-state report card on
women's health for 2004, which examines and grades thirty-four
status indicators of women's health based on overall benchmarks
drawn from the health objectives set for the nation by the
United States department of health and human services' healthy
people 2010 agenda, has graded New Mexico "failing" or
"unsatisfactory" in nineteen of the thirty-four indicators; and**

**WHEREAS, the status indicators measured are in the
following four categories: women's access to health care
services; addressing wellness and prevention; key health
conditions, including key causes of death, chronic health**

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1 conditions, reproductive health, mental health, and violence
2 against women; and living in a healthy community; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico received failing or unsatisfactory
4 grades in all four of the status indicator categories; and

5 WHEREAS, the same report card evaluates the performance
6 of state governments in promoting sixty-seven policy indicators
7 on women's health, including statutes, regulations, policies
8 and programs that address the problems identified by the four
9 categories of health status indicators, and has rated New
10 Mexico as "meets policy" in only twenty-eight of the sixty-
11 seven indicators; and

12 WHEREAS, a total of nineteen states currently have offices
13 of women's health, including the neighboring states of Texas,
14 Arizona and Colorado; and

15 WHEREAS, state offices of women's health can serve many
16 different functions, including developing agendas on women's
17 health issues; providing policy guidance to the governor, state
18 legislature and department of health; serving as a
19 clearinghouse and resource for information on women's health
20 for the public; and funding and overseeing direct health care
21 services benefiting women; and

22 WHEREAS, multiple governmental, nongovernmental and
23 grassroots organizations in the state are engaged in the
24 provision and advocacy of services for women and endeavor to
25 increase coordination of their activities and reduce

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1 duplication of effort; and

2 WHEREAS, women's health services in Santa Fe has been
3 designated and funded since 2001 by the federal department of
4 health and human services office of women's health as a
5 community center of excellence in women's health, one of only
6 fourteen in the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, the mission of a community center of excellence
8 in women's health is to unite promising approaches in women's
9 health through the integration of:

10 A. comprehensive, gender-specific health service
11 delivery;

12 B. training for lay and professional health
13 providers;

14 C. community-based research;

15 D. public education and outreach;

16 E. leadership development for women as health care
17 consumers and providers; and

18 F. technical assistance to ensure the replication
19 of promising models and strategies at the community level and
20 to improve health outcomes for underserved women;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commission on the status of women
23 be requested to create a task force to study the establishment
24 of an office of women's health for New Mexico; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force review the

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1 methods of developing women's health policy and service
2 delivery in an effective and comprehensive fashion to promote
3 health and reduce the burden of preventable disease and injury
4 among the women and girls of New Mexico, including the
5 following focus areas:

6 A. development of a comprehensive framework for
7 women's health policy and programs that reflects the current
8 research on the health status of women in New Mexico and is
9 representative of the needs of women and girls throughout the
10 state;

11 B. enhancement of policy and resource development
12 by facilitating communication among various state departments
13 and programs, local health departments and community
14 organizations, and by providing technical assistance to
15 government agencies and the legislature;

16 C. support and coordination of the activities of
17 the women's health council that provides policy recommendations
18 to the governor and the secretary of health on women's health
19 issues;

20 D. facilitation of women's health programs within
21 New Mexico in order to identify duplication or gaps in services
22 and to improve coordination of services to create a seamless
23 delivery system based on key health concerns of women;

24 E. conveying information on women's health
25 resources and organizations to policymakers and the general

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1 public; and

2 F. providing administrative support for a New
3 Mexico women's health survey for the purpose of collecting,
4 analyzing and disseminating information to guide
5 decision-making about women's health by public health
6 professionals and policymakers; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be made up of
8 representatives of the commission on the status of women; the
9 department of health; the New Mexico health policy commission;
10 the children, youth and families department; the human services
11 department; the Indian affairs department; the veterans'
12 services department; other agencies and commissions within New
13 Mexico government, as appropriate; women's health services,
14 inc.; women's health and human services advocacy groups; and
15 other appropriate advocacy groups; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
17 findings to the legislative health and human services committee
18 by October 2005; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the governor and the secretaries and directors
21 of the following: the commission on the status of women; the
22 department of health; the New Mexico health policy commission;
23 the children, youth and families department; the human services
24 department; the Indian affairs department; the veterans'
25 services department; the aging and long-term services

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1 department; the corrections department; the general services
2 department; and other agencies and commissions within New
3 Mexico government, as appropriate.

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