

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO STUDY WAYS TO IMPROVE THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, in every community and geographical area of New Mexico, emergency medical services are important and life-saving to residents who have significant injuries or life-threatening illnesses; and

WHEREAS, residents of and visitors to New Mexico who are seriously injured or critically ill are entitled to receive the highest level of competent emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services are provided by volunteers and paid professionals in every community in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, for the last ten years, the emergency medical services system and emergency medical service providers have received a significant reduction of federal, state and local funding for equipment, personnel, training and education needed for emergency medical service delivery and system infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, fewer individuals are able to volunteer to serve the community as emergency medical service personnel; and

WHEREAS, governmental oversight and accountability for

ensuring the competent delivery of emergency medical services has been divided among several independent governmental agencies, none of which has overall responsibility for guaranteeing the residents of New Mexico competent provision of emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, it has been repeatedly demonstrated that adequately funded and administered emergency medical care significantly reduces mortality and morbidity in adults and children; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical service system infrastructure at the state and regional levels is inadequately funded by the state and the amount of federal support has declined dramatically in the last eight years; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical system in New Mexico must be improved to ensure current and future delivery of emergency medical services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to convene an emergency medical services task force to study and make recommendations to ensure the statewide delivery of emergency medical care in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force identify a unified governmental oversight structure that ensures accountable and responsible emergency medical services,

adequate emergency medical service personnel and funding necessary to ensure a statewide emergency medical services system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force evaluate the level of funding, equipment, training and educational needs for volunteer and nonvolunteer providers of rural and urban emergency medical services in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to appoint representatives of the stakeholders of emergency medical services, including the three emergency medical services regions, the statewide emergency medical services advisory committee, the rural and urban volunteer emergency medical services, the state firefighters association, the state fire chiefs association, the trauma advisory committee, the statewide organization representing emergency medical technicians, the statewide organization representing emergency physicians and the New Mexico association of counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to appoint representatives of the public regulation commission to the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the emergency medical services task force's report address the need for accountable administrative oversight, adequate financing for the statewide emergency medical services system, the recruitment and retention of volunteers and other issues that would improve

the emergency medical services system and report its findings and recommendations to the interim legislative health and human services committee by October 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the chair of the public regulation commission, the statewide emergency medical services advisory committee and the New Mexico association of counties.