

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT AN
3 AMENDMENT TO THE STATE MEDICAID PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR A
4 CONTINUUM OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH SUBSTANCE
5 ABUSE PROBLEMS.

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7 WHEREAS, in 2003-2004, New Mexico had the highest rate
8 of past-year illicit drug dependence or abuse among persons
9 twelve years of age or older; and

10 WHEREAS, also in 2003-2004, New Mexico ranked second in
11 the nation for the rate of persons twelve years of age or
12 older who needed but did not receive treatment for illicit
13 drug use; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico had the fourth highest rate in the
15 nation of past-year alcohol dependence or abuse among persons
16 twelve years of age or older in 2003-2004; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranked fifth in the nation for the
18 rate of persons twelve years of age or older who needed but
19 did not receive treatment for alcohol abuse in 2003-2004; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico's alcohol-related chronic liver
21 disease death rate has increased by twenty-four percent over
22 the past two decades, although the rate for the nation as a
23 whole has decreased by twenty-one percent. More generally,
24 alcohol and drug abuse contribute to overall rates of
25 substance abuse-related deaths in New Mexico that have been

1 among the highest in the nation for the past two decades; and

2 WHEREAS, nine of the ten leading causes of death in New
3 Mexico are at least partially caused by alcohol, tobacco or
4 other drug use; and

5 WHEREAS, every dollar invested in substance abuse
6 treatment saves taxpayers seven dollars forty-six cents
7 (\$7.46) in societal costs, and with some outpatient treatment
8 programs, total savings can exceed costs by a ratio of twelve
9 to one; and

10 WHEREAS, a study of Washington state's medicaid program
11 found that the provision of substance abuse treatment was
12 associated with a reduction in medical expenses of
13 approximately two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500)
14 annually. This estimated saving was equal to the cost of
15 treatment and represented approximately thirty-five percent
16 of the annual medicaid expenses incurred by welfare clients
17 with substance abuse problems; and

18 WHEREAS, nationally, patients' medical costs decreased
19 by thirty percent on average between the year prior to
20 substance abuse treatment intake and the third year following
21 intake. Both medicaid and non-medicaid patients showed
22 average declines of thirty percent in medical costs from the
23 baseline period to the third year following treatment
24 initiation; and

25 WHEREAS, between 2003 and 2004, a national survey showed

1 that the cost of treatment or a lack of insurance for
2 treatment were the most common reasons for not receiving
3 treatment. Among those who made an unsuccessful effort to
4 get treatment, over forty percent reported cost or insurance
5 barriers as the reason for not receiving care; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2005, the governor's interagency substance
7 abuse task force recommended that the state should "[e]nhance
8 use of medicaid funding for substance abuse-related treatment
9 services"; and

10 WHEREAS, the state is currently spending ten million
11 dollars (\$10,000,000) for substance abuse treatment without
12 receiving federal matching funds;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be
15 requested to submit an amendment to the state medicaid plan
16 to the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services no
17 later than July 1, 2008 to provide a continuum of
18 rehabilitative services to people with substance abuse
19 problems. The continuum of rehabilitative services outlined
20 in the amendment shall be no less than comparable to the
21 continuum of services provided to people with mental health
22 diagnoses; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the human services department. _____