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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 10
49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY
Nathan P. Cote

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO WORK TO
RESTORE FULL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR RESIDENCY EDUCATION UNDER
TITLE VII AND TITLE VIII OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

WHEREAS, primary health care providers are essential to an
effective health care delivery system, providing crucial acute,
chronic and preventive health care services; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico communities are currently trying to
recruit a substantial number of primary care providers, and the
need for primary care providers will only increase due to an
aging population, changing demographics and the retirement of
working practitioners; and

WHEREAS, access to medical care can only be assured if
there are a sufficient number of health care and primary care
providers available to work in all communities in the state;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, one element of improving access to health care
3 and primary care providers is to develop and maintain strong
4 educational, financial and mentoring support for students
5 interested in becoming health care providers, thereby ensuring
6 an adequate supply of providers to work in the health care
7 delivery system throughout the state; and

8 WHEREAS, a pipeline to improve the supply and distribution
9 of health care providers requires many elements, including
10 financial support through loan repayment programs,
11 scholarships, loan-for-service programs, tax incentives and
12 support for residency programs; and

13 WHEREAS, Title VII and Title VIII of the federal Public
14 Health Service Act authorize myriad programs for students and
15 institutions to improve the geographic distribution, quality
16 and diversity of the health care work force; and

17 WHEREAS, those titles were created in 1963 and enacted in
18 1964 in response to a shortage of health care providers and
19 were originally designed to encourage health care workers to
20 practice in underserved areas and to focus on training
21 advanced-practice nurses; and

22 WHEREAS, over the years, those titles have been amended
23 several times to authorize a number of programs with important
24 objectives such as epidemiology, environmental health, maternal
25 and child health and other areas where critical work force

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1 shortages exist; and

2 WHEREAS, over the last three years, funding for Title VII
3 and Title VIII programs has been stagnant or significantly
4 reduced, including a reduction of forty million dollars
5 (\$40,000,000) in the "Training in Primary Care Medicine and
6 Dentistry Program"; and

7 WHEREAS, loss of funding in those critical program areas
8 makes it difficult to build, strengthen and diversify the
9 state's health care and primary care work force;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the members of the New Mexico
12 congressional delegation be requested to work to restore full
13 federal funding for residency education under Title VII and
14 Title VIII of the federal Public Health Service Act; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
16 delegation collaborate with the department of health, the
17 university of New Mexico health sciences center, New Mexico
18 health resources, incorporated, and others to identify specific
19 recommendations that will best serve the health care needs of
20 New Mexico; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.