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HOUSE MEMORIAL 94

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Danice Picraux

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CHARGE THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE WITH COMMISSIONING A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICAID, THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM AND THE STATE COVERAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the federal Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 significantly increases federal funding, grants and bonuses to states for enrolling children into medicaid and the state children's health insurance program; and

WHEREAS, the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 enhances the federal medical assistance percentage rate for state expenditures on medicaid; and

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1           WHEREAS, New Mexico has the second highest uninsured rate  
2 in the nation; and

3           WHEREAS, almost fifty thousand New Mexico children who are  
4 estimated to be eligible for medicaid and the state children's  
5 health insurance program are not enrolled; and

6           WHEREAS, approximately one hundred ninety thousand  
7 eligible adults are not enrolled in medicaid or the state  
8 coverage insurance program; and

9           WHEREAS, enrollment in medicaid has dropped over the last  
10 five years for the poorest families in the state while many  
11 low-income families continue to be ineligible under the state  
12 plan; and

13           WHEREAS, the state coverage insurance program for adults  
14 discontinued enrollments last year, leaving thousands of people  
15 on its waiting list and without health coverage; and

16           WHEREAS, more than eighteen thousand people are currently  
17 on waiting lists to receive services through the medicaid  
18 developmental disabilities and disabled and elderly waivers,  
19 while eligible individuals wait years before receiving  
20 services; and

21           WHEREAS, the recent passage of the Children's Health  
22 Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 and the American  
23 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 substantially increases  
24 funding allotments and matching rates to New Mexico, providing  
25 critical new opportunities for the state to maximize enrollment

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1 in medicaid and the state children's health insurance program,  
2 as well as to extend the waiver program for state coverage  
3 insurance; and

4 WHEREAS, performance bonuses will be awarded to states  
5 that increase enrollment by implementing administrative  
6 practices that are designed to reduce enrollment barriers and  
7 streamline the renewal process, providing the state with  
8 opportunities to implement new practices that would ensure that  
9 eligible New Mexicans can enroll and receive benefits; and

10 WHEREAS, additional grants will be awarded to states and  
11 community organizations that conduct outreach campaigns to  
12 reach underserved children; and

13 WHEREAS, the state will be required under the Children's  
14 Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 to report  
15 data annually on the enrollment of children in medicaid and the  
16 state children's health insurance program, including data on  
17 eligibility criteria, enrollment and retention, and denials and  
18 redeterminations of eligibility; and

19 WHEREAS, new provisions in the federal laws allow for the  
20 state to expand eligibility for children, women, families and  
21 adults in medicaid and the state children's health insurance  
22 program; and

23 WHEREAS, the state must make critical decisions that will  
24 affect eligibility policies, budgeting, administrative  
25 practices and outreach and enrollment; and

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1           WHEREAS, public input would enhance the decision-making  
2 process for determining how the medicaid and other state-  
3 administered health insurance programs should allocate funds,  
4 select coverage options, implement new administrative practices  
5 and target outreach; and

6           WHEREAS, the state must act within fixed time frames over  
7 the year to submit applications and amend its state plan to  
8 implement options in medicaid and the state children's health  
9 insurance program, and to extend the waiver program for state  
10 coverage insurance; and

11           WHEREAS, the state must act immediately to ensure that it  
12 receives federal allotments, grants and bonuses before such  
13 funds are exhausted;

14           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
16 legislative council be requested to charge the interim  
17 legislative health and human services committee with forming a  
18 task force consisting of legislators, community  
19 representatives, human services department staff and  
20 legislative finance committee staff to make recommendations and  
21 review the performance of the human services department with  
22 respect to configuring the medicaid, state coverage insurance  
23 and state children's health insurance programs; and

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force make  
25 recommendations to increase enrollment and maximize resources

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1 provided by the federal government, selecting and implementing  
2 new eligibility and coverage policies and administrative  
3 practices and reporting data on enrollment and retention; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be jointly led  
5 by the chair of the interim legislative health and human  
6 services committee and a co-chair of the legislative finance  
7 committee, or their designees, and that membership include the  
8 chairs of the standing house health and government affairs  
9 committee, the house appropriations and finance committee, the  
10 senate public affairs committee and the senate finance  
11 committee, or their designees; the secretary of human services  
12 or the secretary's designee; the director of the medical  
13 assistance division of the human services department; the  
14 director of the income support division of the human services  
15 department; and representatives of at least five nonprofit  
16 community or advocacy organizations that represent medicaid  
17 recipients and have policy expertise on these matters as  
18 selected by the chair and vice chair of the legislative health  
19 and human services committee; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department  
21 be requested to supply the appropriate staff and information  
22 requested by the task force to assist its analysis of the new  
23 federal laws; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force begin meeting  
25 on a regular basis from April 2009 through March 2010; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
2 transmitted to the governor, the co-chairs of the New Mexico  
3 legislative council, the secretary of human services, the chair  
4 and vice chair of the interim legislative health and human  
5 services committee and the chair and vice chair of the  
6 legislative finance committee.

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