

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY EXISTING
12 NEW MEXICO PROGRAMS THAT PREPARE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BECOME
13 CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS OR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES AND
14 DEVELOP GUIDELINES TO REPLICATE SUCH PROGRAMS STATEWIDE.

15
16 WHEREAS, certified nursing assistants and licensed
17 practical nurses are important members of the health care team
18 in hospitals, nursing facilities, home health agencies and
19 other health care provider settings; and

20 WHEREAS, to become a certified nursing assistant, an
21 individual must complete a state-approved training program,
22 which includes a minimum of fifty hours of theory and one
23 hundred hours of supervised clinical training, and must take a
24 certification test; and

25 WHEREAS, to become a licensed practical nurse, an

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1 individual must graduate from an accredited program that
2 includes both academic and clinical training and experience and
3 take a national examination to become licensed; and

4 WHEREAS, both certification as a nursing assistant and
5 licensing as a practical nurse can serve as a gateway to higher
6 levels of education and medical training such as various levels
7 of registered nursing; emergency medical technician training;
8 physical, occupational or speech therapy; medical school; and
9 many other vital careers in the medical field; and

10 WHEREAS, for some time, New Mexico has been experiencing
11 shortages in all categories of health care professionals,
12 including nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses; and

13 WHEREAS, nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses
14 who receive their training beginning at the high school level
15 are more inclined to seek employment that allows them to remain
16 in their home communities; and

17 WHEREAS, certified nurse assistants are needed to provide
18 routine care, often serving as the eyes and ears of the nurse
19 and freeing the nurse to perform other duties; and

20 WHEREAS, licensed practical nurses provide a wide range of
21 duties, including giving injections, taking vital signs,
22 dressing wounds and administering medications; and

23 WHEREAS, currently, most training for nursing assistants
24 and licensed practical nurses takes place in community
25 colleges; and

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1 WHEREAS, a small but growing number of high schools are
2 offering innovative programs that allow qualified and
3 interested students to accomplish all the necessary training to
4 become certified nursing assistants while still in high school
5 and thereby graduate from high school with the necessary
6 qualifications to take the certification test and become
7 employed; and

8 WHEREAS, the career enrichment center of the Albuquerque
9 public schools has a program that allows qualified and
10 interested students to accomplish all the coursework and
11 clinical experience to become licensed practical nurses while
12 still in high school and thereby graduate from high school
13 fully prepared to take the national licensing examination and
14 become employed as licensed practical nurses; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the career enrichment center, in the
16 previous school year, the program to train licensed practical
17 nurses attracted two hundred fifty applicants, only fifty of
18 whom could be accepted into the program; and

19 WHEREAS, as reported in the *Albuquerque Journal*, one
20 hundred percent of the graduates of the career enrichment
21 center's practical nursing program passed their national
22 examinations on the first try; and

23 WHEREAS, the career enrichment center's practical nursing
24 program is the only one like it in the nation, serving as a
25 model worthy of replication in other high schools; and

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1 WHEREAS, programs such as the one at the career enrichment
2 center not only benefit high school students by preparing them
3 for significant employment opportunities upon graduation, but
4 also help to promote career development in the medical
5 profession and address health care professional work force
6 shortages in the state;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
9 requested to study existing New Mexico programs that prepare
10 high school students to become certified nursing assistants or
11 licensed practical nurses and develop guidelines to replicate
12 such programs statewide; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
14 department cooperate with the division of health improvement of
15 the department of health in the development of the guidelines
16 to ensure alignment with federal and state requirements for
17 training, certification and licensing of nursing assistants and
18 licensed practical nurses; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
20 department report to the interim legislative health and human
21 services committee on progress toward development of guidelines
22 and efforts to encourage implementation of similar programs in
23 New Mexico high schools by November 2010; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the secretary

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1 of health and the principal of the career enrichment center in
2 the Albuquerque public schools.

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