

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 4

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Dede Feldman

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO RECOGNIZE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF  
12 THE FEDERAL PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OF 2010  
13 AND TO AGGRESSIVELY IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT IN THE  
14 STATE.

15  
16 WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable  
17 Care Act of 2010, also called the ACA, was enacted into law in  
18 2010 and will provide greater access to health care for New  
19 Mexicans; and

20 WHEREAS, according to the nonpartisan congressional budget  
21 office, the ACA will reduce the federal deficit by one hundred  
22 forty-three billion dollars (\$143,000,000,000) in the first ten  
23 years and by more than one trillion dollars  
24 (\$1,000,000,000,000) in the second ten years; and

25 WHEREAS, according to the federal center for consumer

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1 information and insurance oversight, the state has received, as  
2 of June 9, 2011, over one hundred five million dollars  
3 (\$105,000,000) in ACA grants to public, private and tribal  
4 entities; and

5 WHEREAS, the Kaiser family foundation reports that New  
6 Mexico has one of the highest rates of uninsured residents and  
7 uncompensated care in the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, the high rate of uninsured individuals and  
9 uncompensated care in New Mexico places an added cost burden on  
10 businesses that provide health insurance for their employees;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the nonpartisan urban institute reports that,  
13 nationwide, local governments will save one hundred seventy-two  
14 million dollars (\$172,000,000) to three hundred forty-four  
15 million dollars (\$344,000,000) in uncompensated care costs due  
16 to the provisions of the ACA; and

17 WHEREAS, the ACA provides that children can no longer be  
18 denied insurance because of a preexisting condition; and

19 WHEREAS, the ACA provides that young adults can remain on  
20 their parents' insurance policies until the age of twenty-six;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the federal centers for medicare and medicaid  
23 services reports that so far this year, thanks to the ACA,  
24 nearly nineteen million medicare beneficiaries nationwide have  
25 used preventive services at no cost to them and that nearly one

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1 million three hundred thousand people nationwide have received  
2 a fifty percent discount on their brand name prescription drugs  
3 when they hit the "donut hole" coverage gap, saving a total of  
4 six hundred sixty million dollars (\$660,000,000); and

5 WHEREAS, the ACA will close the medicare donut hole  
6 prescription coverage gap entirely by 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, through the reinsurance program established in  
8 the ACA, the federal department of health and human services  
9 reports that New Mexico businesses, including Los Alamos  
10 national security, PNM resources, the Sandia corporation, the  
11 university of New Mexico, the public school insurance authority  
12 and the retiree health care authority have received, as of  
13 March 31, 2011, over eight million six hundred thousand dollars  
14 (\$8,600,000) in subsidies to cover their early retirees for  
15 whom it had been difficult to purchase quality, affordable  
16 coverage; and

17 WHEREAS, the office of United States Senator Jeff Bingaman  
18 reports that the ACA will enable three hundred fifteen thousand  
19 of the four hundred forty-four thousand currently uninsured  
20 adults in New Mexico to get health insurance coverage; and

21 WHEREAS, the nonpartisan congressional budget office  
22 reports that New Mexico businesses and individuals will benefit  
23 from a new health care insurance exchange that will provide a  
24 competitive marketplace for health insurance plans; and

25 WHEREAS, the nonpartisan congressional budget office

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1 reports that ACA health insurance subsidies will result in  
2 premiums for some that are fifty-six percent to fifty-nine  
3 percent lower than current costs; and

4 WHEREAS, the human services department estimates that the  
5 state general fund share of medicaid expansion during the years  
6 2014 to 2020 will cost as much as seven hundred ninety-seven  
7 million dollars (\$797,000,000); and

8 WHEREAS, economist Dr. Kelly O'Donnell estimates that new  
9 state tax revenue from existing taxes will be as much as one  
10 billion two hundred million dollars (\$1,200,000,000), which is  
11 more than enough to cover the state's share of medicaid  
12 expansion; and

13 WHEREAS, the federal internal revenue service estimates  
14 that nearly twenty-six thousand small businesses in New Mexico  
15 that together employ more than one hundred thousand people and  
16 are often unable to afford to offer health insurance to their  
17 employees will now be able to do so because of tax credits that  
18 will subsidize up to fifty percent of the employer's share of  
19 health insurance premiums; and

20 WHEREAS, the nonpartisan congressional budget office  
21 reports that passage of the ACA means that businesses receiving  
22 a tax credit and their employees are expected to see a decrease  
23 in health coverage premiums of about eight percent to eleven  
24 percent compared with such costs without health care reform;  
25 and

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1           WHEREAS, the United States public interest research group  
2 estimates that by reducing employer-borne health care costs,  
3 reform is expected to create one thousand three hundred to two  
4 thousand jobs in New Mexico; and

5           WHEREAS, the human services department estimates that the  
6 ACA will bring as much as thirteen billion three hundred  
7 million dollars (\$13,300,000,000) in federal funding to New  
8 Mexico; and

9           WHEREAS, Dr. O'Donnell estimates that the federal funds  
10 that the ACA brings into the state will generate as much as  
11 twenty-one billion four hundred million dollars  
12 (\$21,400,000,000) in new economic activity; and

13           WHEREAS, Dr. O'Donnell estimates that the ACA will  
14 generate between thirty-eight thousand and forty-seven thousand  
15 new jobs in New Mexico; and

16           WHEREAS, economist Dr. Kelly O'Donnell estimates that new  
17 local tax revenue from existing taxes will be as much as two  
18 hundred thirty-three million dollars (\$233,000,000) during the  
19 years 2014 to 2020;

20           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
21 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to aggressively  
22 implement the ACA to maximize the benefits of the ACA for the  
23 health of New Mexicans and the New Mexico economy; and

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
25 transmitted to the governor and the director of the New Mexico

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1 office of health care reform.

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