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SENATE MEMORIAL 20

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE STATE DEVELOP A SERVICE PLAN FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER THROUGH A DYNAMIC PLANNING PROCESS THAT BUILDS ON THE TENETS OF PREVIOUS PLANS AND REPORTS BY THE INTERAGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PURCHASING COLLABORATIVE, THE INSURANCE DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION, THE NEW MEXICO AUTISM TASK FORCE AND THE AUTISM OVERSIGHT TEAM, THE NEW MEXICO AUTISM SOCIETY, THE AUTISM PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY, INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND OTHER APPROPRIATE STAKEHOLDERS.

WHEREAS, the legislature of the state of New Mexico recognizes that autism spectrum disorder is the largest growing developmental disability in the world and that one in one hundred ten New Mexicans under the age of eight meets criteria

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1 for an autism spectrum disorder; and

2 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature has worked diligently
3 with the autism community and state agencies to meet the needs
4 of this growing population; and

5 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature understands that the
6 numbers of new diagnoses as well as the needs of underserved
7 early childhood, school-age and adult populations have
8 negatively impacted the development and implementation of
9 adequate services and support for individuals with autism
10 spectrum disorder and their families in New Mexico;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
12 OF NEW MEXICO that the state be requested to develop a service
13 plan for autism spectrum disorder through a dynamic planning
14 process that builds on the tenets of previous plans and reports
15 by the interagency behavioral health purchasing collaborative,
16 the insurance division of the public regulation commission, the
17 New Mexico autism task force and the autism oversight team, the
18 New Mexico autism society, the autism programs at the
19 university of New Mexico center for development and disability,
20 individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder,
21 and other appropriate stakeholders and that includes at least
22 the following:

23 A. access to multi-disciplinary diagnosis for
24 people of all ages;

25 B. evidence-based and accessible treatment in the

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1 private and public sectors with:

2 (1) appropriate behavioral health services
3 included in medicaid modernization that makes available both
4 evidence-based intervention and comprehensive community support
5 services;

6 (2) the state employee insurance plan adopting
7 the New Mexico autism insurance mandate;

8 (3) reasonable copayments or the waiving of
9 certain copayments, allowing individuals and families access to
10 care; and

11 (4) a comprehensive and transparent process
12 that determines the level of care and appropriate support for
13 children with challenging behaviors, with a focus on:

14 (a) support to the individual and
15 family;

16 (b) notice of whether community
17 resources are available or have been exhausted;

18 (c) the role of public schools in
19 funding the educational component of a higher level of care;

20 (d) the development and implementation
21 of autism-specific standards for residential treatment centers;

22 (e) discharge plans that make available
23 training and technical assistance for community providers; and

24 (f) guidance from the public education
25 department on the reintegration of children from residential

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1 settings into public schools and on how professional
2 development for student-specific needs will be achieved; and

3 C. a means to assess the needs of high functioning
4 adults with autism spectrum disorder who do not qualify for
5 developmental disabilities services and to offer them
6 appropriate levels of support; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the service plan include both
8 the proposed policy development and the funding necessary to
9 begin implementation; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the interim legislative health and human
12 services committee by November 1, 2012.