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SENATE MEMORIAL 68

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY AND REPORT ON WAYS TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM OF HEALTH CARE TRANSITION FOR NEW MEXICO CHILDREN AND YOUTHS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

WHEREAS, a 2010 national survey of children with special health care needs found that New Mexico had seventy thousand seven hundred twenty-four children and youths with special health care needs; and

WHEREAS, according to the national survey, the prevalence of children and youths with special health care needs between the ages of twelve and seventeen in New Mexico was seventeen and nine-tenths percent, compared to the national average of

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1 sixteen and eight-tenths percent; and

2 WHEREAS, children and youths with special health care  
3 needs between the ages of twelve and nineteen years of age are  
4 aging out of the pediatric medical environment and need to make  
5 a transition to adult health care providers; and

6 WHEREAS, there are few systems or resources available to  
7 aid pediatric and adult health care providers and children and  
8 youths with special health care needs and their families in the  
9 process of transition from pediatric to adult health care; and

10 WHEREAS, numerous research studies have shown that  
11 policies, systems and services tend to lack coordination and  
12 are fragmented, and children and youths with disabilities and  
13 their families lack the information they need to successfully  
14 navigate the transition from pediatric to adult health care;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, numerous research studies have shown that health  
17 care fragmentation and the lack of effective transition and  
18 transfer of health care services have a negative impact on the  
19 health of patients throughout their life spans; and

20 WHEREAS, optimal health care is achieved when each person,  
21 at every age, receives medically and developmentally  
22 appropriate care;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health's children's  
25 medical services program and the university of New Mexico

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1 center for development and disability be requested to convene a  
2 task force on health care transition for New Mexico children  
3 and youths with special health care needs; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of,  
5 among others, one or more young adults who are experiencing or  
6 who have experienced the transition process from pediatric to  
7 adult health care; and representatives of the university of New  
8 Mexico hospital, Presbyterian hospital, the medical assistance  
9 division of the human services department, parents reaching  
10 out, the New Mexico medical society, the office of  
11 superintendent of insurance, healthinsight New Mexico, the  
12 governor's commission on disability and special Olympics New  
13 Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also include a  
15 family and community medicine physician, a pediatric physician  
16 and a psychiatrist specializing in services to children and  
17 youths with special health care needs; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also include  
19 representatives of the four medicaid managed care organizations  
20 providing services through the centennial care program; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
22 identify and study existing barriers to effective health care  
23 transition and transfer services for New Mexico children and  
24 youths with special health care needs; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to

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1 identify and study strategies to address the barriers to  
2 effective health care transition and transfer services,  
3 including evidence-based strategies that have been successfully  
4 used in other states; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
6 make formal recommendations for changes to existing policies,  
7 programs and regulatory provisions or recommendations on new  
8 policies, programs or regulatory provisions that would:

9 A. address barriers to effective health care  
10 transition for children and youths with special health care  
11 needs;

12 B. result in more effective services for children  
13 and youths with special health care needs as they make the  
14 transition from pediatric to adult health care services;

15 C. improve the efficiency of the health care  
16 transition process;

17 D. ease the burden of the health care transition  
18 process both on patients and their families; and

19 E. maximize outcomes, including lifelong  
20 functioning and well-being, for children and youths with  
21 special health care needs; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force provide a  
23 report of its review and recommendations to the secretary of  
24 health, the secretary of human services, the legislative health  
25 and human services committee, the disabilities concerns

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1 subcommittee of the legislative health and human services  
2 committee and the legislative finance committee by October 1,  
3 2015; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
5 transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of human  
6 services, the chancellor for health sciences of the university  
7 of New Mexico, the director of the center for development and  
8 disability at the university of New Mexico, the president of  
9 the university of New Mexico hospital, the president of  
10 Presbyterian hospital, the executive director of parents  
11 reaching out, the executive director of the New Mexico medical  
12 society, the superintendent of insurance, the executive  
13 director of healthinsight New Mexico, the director of the  
14 governor's commission on disability and the executive director  
15 of special Olympics New Mexico.