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SENATE MEMORIAL 28

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Lisa A. Torraco

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO TO COMMISSION A STUDY TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING AN ACCELERATED CURRICULUM FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS TO EARN DOCTORATES IN MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

WHEREAS, according to a recent Robert Wood Johnson foundation study, in some New Mexico counties the ratio of patients who need care to available primary care physicians is sixteen thousand twenty-one patients to one primary care physician; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2015 New Mexico health care workforce committee report, the average age of physicians in New Mexico is fifty-two years and eleven months old; and

WHEREAS, with thirty-five and nine-tenths percent of New

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1 Mexico physicians over sixty years of age, New Mexico has the  
2 highest percentage nationwide of physicians who are over age  
3 sixty; and

4 WHEREAS, the 2015 New Mexico health care workforce  
5 committee report shows that New Mexico currently has a shortage  
6 of one hundred thirty-nine physicians; and

7 WHEREAS, the 2015 New Mexico health care workforce  
8 committee report identifies a severe maldistribution of  
9 physicians that favors urban areas such as Albuquerque over the  
10 vast rural areas of the state; and

11 WHEREAS, given the demographics and the maldistribution of  
12 physicians, New Mexico's shortage of physicians is expected  
13 only to continue; and

14 WHEREAS, there are physician assistants who have been  
15 trained to practice medicine and who practice throughout the  
16 state, helping to address the shortage of providers; and

17 WHEREAS, some physician assistants wish to continue in  
18 their careers and become physicians; and

19 WHEREAS, the training and experience of physician  
20 assistants in the practice of medicine should be applicable to  
21 their pursuit of a doctorate in medicine; and

22 WHEREAS, there are academic institutions that currently  
23 offer physician assistants curricula designed to offer an  
24 accelerated path to a doctorate in osteopathic medicine; and

25 WHEREAS, offering physician assistants an opportunity to

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1 pursue an accelerated path to receive a doctorate in medicine  
2 is a potential means of increasing the supply of physicians in  
3 state; and

4 WHEREAS, if the university of New Mexico school of  
5 medicine offered an accelerated curriculum to physician  
6 assistants to pursue their doctorates in medicine, this could  
7 attract physician assistants to train and practice in New  
8 Mexico;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the board of regents of the university of  
11 New Mexico be requested to commission a study to examine the  
12 feasibility of implementing an accelerated curriculum for  
13 physician assistants to earn their doctorates in medicine at  
14 the university of New Mexico school of medicine; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of regents of the  
16 university of New Mexico be requested to report the findings of  
17 its study to the legislative health and human services  
18 committee by November 1, 2016; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the board of regents of the university of New  
21 Mexico and to the chair and vice chair of the legislative  
22 health and human services committee.