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SENATE MEMORIAL 6

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

INTRODUCED BY

Carrie Hamblen

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO  
ESTABLISH A NURSING HOME LONG-TERM CARE TASK FORCE TO ENSURE  
THAT NEW MEXICO IS ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR FUTURE EMERGENCIES.

WHEREAS, nursing home residents have been among the most  
vulnerable populations during the coronavirus disease 2019  
pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the quality of care provided and resident and  
staff safety are at the forefront when planning for future  
emergencies; and

WHEREAS, uniform procedures and protocols for workplace  
safety measures are urgently needed to ensure adequate  
preparation for future emergencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of aging and long-term

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1 services be requested to establish a nursing home long-term  
2 care task force to ensure that New Mexico is adequately  
3 prepared for future emergencies; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of aging and  
5 long-term services be requested to include the following  
6 participants in the nursing home long-term care task force:

7 A. representatives from the department of health;

8 B. representatives from the human services  
9 department;

10 C. the long-term care ombudsman of the aging and  
11 long-term services department;

12 D. representatives from the New Mexico chapter of  
13 the Alzheimer's association;

14 E. representatives of AARP New Mexico;

15 F. representatives of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
16 transgender and queer community; and

17 G. additional public members whose organizations  
18 provide nursing home care or are impacted by nursing home long-  
19 term care quality and safety; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nursing home long-term  
21 care task force be requested to focus on the following issues:

22 A. factors to optimize the balance of long-term  
23 services by the expansion of home- and community-based  
24 services;

25 B. recommended strategies to improve the balance

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1 between facility-based services and home- and community-based  
2 services and supports;

3 C. examination of nursing home reforms, including  
4 the implementation of new care models and optimization of  
5 nursing home size and configurations to foster resident  
6 wellness and infection control;

7 D. outcomes of increasing the clinical presence in  
8 nursing homes and identifying appropriate nursing home staffing  
9 levels and ratios for certain resident acuity and special  
10 population needs;

11 E. identification of capital investment needs to  
12 support the physical plant, technology and workforce  
13 development initiatives in nursing homes;

14 F. consideration of broader reforms to the long-  
15 term system of care, including the development of technology  
16 requirements to enable enhanced use of telemedicine and  
17 telehealth;

18 G. the institution of workforce engagement and  
19 advancement models, including options to advance up career  
20 ladders in nursing homes;

21 H. review and evaluation of the current department  
22 of health skilled nursing facility state regulations and  
23 recommended changes to address and provide incentives to  
24 nursing home staff and caregiver professionals, to improve  
25 resident quality of care and to address issues that have arisen

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1 during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic;

2 I. establishment of acuity adjustments for medicaid  
3 managed care payments to nursing homes;

4 J. policy recommendations that specifically address  
5 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer issues; and

6 K. policy recommendations that specifically address  
7 Alzheimer's and dementia issues in long-term care settings  
8 using evidence-based studies and practices; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
10 report its findings to the governor and the legislative health  
11 and human services committee by November 1, 2021; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the legislative  
14 health and human services committee, the secretary of human  
15 services, the secretary of health, the secretary of aging and  
16 long-term services, the long-term care ombudsman of the aging  
17 and long-term services department, the executive director of  
18 the New Mexico chapter of the Alzheimer's association, the  
19 state director of AARP New Mexico, the executive director of  
20 the New Mexico health care association and New Mexico center  
21 for assisted living and the interim executive director of  
22 equality New Mexico.