A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND
THE NAVAJO NATION COLLABORATIVELY TAKE PROACTIVE STEPS TO
PROVIDE HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES FOR WOMEN AND
CHILDREN AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS DURING THE
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 PANDEMIC AS PART OF THE PROPOSED
GALLUP INDIAN MEDICAL CENTER.

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives are at
greater mortality risk from many health issues and injuries
than the rest of the United States population and have
mortality rates that are five hundred forty-eight percent
greater for alcoholism, two hundred percent greater for death
by a motor vehicle, one hundred eighty-two percent greater for
diabetes mellitus, one hundred thirty-eight percent greater for
unintentional injuries, seventy-five percent greater for
poisoning, seventy-five percent greater for homicide, seventy-five percent greater for suicide, thirty-seven percent greater for pneumonia and influenza and twenty-seven percent greater for firearm injury; and

WHEREAS, among American Indians and Alaska Natives, deaths from accidents, diabetes, suicide and chronic liver disease and cirrhosis are two to three times higher than among non-Natives; and

WHEREAS, compared to other American Indians and Alaska Natives, Navajos have lower percentages of high school and college graduates, lower household incomes and a lower percentage of women receiving prenatal care; and

WHEREAS, compared to other American Indians and Alaska Natives, Navajos have higher rates of unemployment, poverty, homicide and suicide, unintentional injury-related deaths and mothers with diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the majority of American Indians and Alaska Natives living in New Mexico reside in McKinley, San Juan and Bernalillo counties; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of births to single women in 2017 was highest for American Indians and Alaska Natives at seventy-seven and one-half percent, and single-parent births have increased among American Indians and Alaska Natives by twenty-four and two-tenths percent since 1990; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of preterm deliveries for American...
Indian and Alaska Native women in New Mexico increased from
eight and three-tenths percent to ten and one-half percent from
2013 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, the birth rate is highest at one hundred twenty-six and seven-tenths per one thousand women for American Indian
and Alaska Native women aged twenty to twenty-four in New
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the death rate is highest for New Mexican
American Indians and Alaska Natives at nine hundred sixty-seven
and four-tenths per one hundred thousand; and

WHEREAS, the average adverse childhood experiences score
is estimated at four among American Indians and Alaska Natives;
and

WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences have been shown to
have long-lasting effects on many aspects of a person's life as
indicated by health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, six hundred sixty-six cases were referred to
child protective services in Shiprock from 2014 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives died younger
than other racial and ethnic groups in 2017, and nearly one-half of those who died were between the ages of fifteen and
sixty-four; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native death rates
increased from 2014 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, from 2007 to 2017, there were two hundred sixty-
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four suicides and one hundred ninety-one homicides among
American Indians and Alaska Natives in McKinley and San Juan
counties; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives had the
highest death rates due to accidents and neonatal infant
mortality; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives in New Mexico
had the highest death rate for ages one through four and
fifteen through sixty-four; and

WHEREAS, infant mortality rates were highest for American
Indian and Alaska Native mothers aged fifteen to nineteen; and

WHEREAS, the costs of death and illness are felt by
families and entire communities; and

WHEREAS, families and communities are impacted by the loss
of potential years of productivity and contributions to the
economy; and

WHEREAS, the increased risk of poor health outcomes and
early death for American Indians and Alaska Natives can lead to
survivor poverty, hardship, chronic illness and early death;
and

WHEREAS, there are few dedicated resources for women and
children, and those resources are often located at great
distances from those who need them; and

WHEREAS, the lack of available resources creates ongoing
trauma for women and children, who often live in very rural and
remote communities; and

WHEREAS, despite outreach by some organizations and professionals, many women and children still do not have access to resources due to lack of funding or transportation; and

WHEREAS, violence against women and children is related to incidence of family violence, control and restrictions, which often go unreported or are reported years after the crime occurred; and

WHEREAS, even when health care is sought, women and children may not be able to attend follow-up appointments that are necessary for healthy delivery of babies and chronic disease management; and

WHEREAS, facilities and funding for victims of sexual violence are not available to sustain needed services, including comprehensive care and mobile facilities with twenty-four-hour dedicated staff, examiners, advocates and nurses in addition to Indian health service hospitals and emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS, many health problems and injuries are symptoms of adverse childhood experiences and resulting trauma that have been unattended by health, public safety, judicial and other public service systems; and

WHEREAS, according to the Navajo Nation department of health, there have been twenty-six thousand positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 on the Navajo Nation, resulting in
nine hundred fifteen deaths; and

WHEREAS, the Gallup Indian medical center contains ninety-nine beds and has one of the largest workloads in the Indian health service with over two hundred fifty thousand patient encounters and five thousand eight hundred inpatient admissions annually; and

WHEREAS, the Gallup Indian medical center has the largest staff of all Navajo area Indian health service facilities; and

WHEREAS, the community of Gallup has seen four thousand two hundred four positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019; and

WHEREAS, the need to provide more health care infrastructure and expand current facilities in Gallup is greatly needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States, the state of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation be requested to collaboratively take proactive steps to provide health care infrastructure and facilities for women and children and for the treatment of patients during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic as part of the proposed Gallup Indian medical center and satellite clinics, including health centers, updated information technology database systems for all Indian health service hospitals and clinics, a database storage facility, health stations and school clinics in remote locations for access to
mental and physical comprehensive care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that victims of sexual violence be provided comprehensive care facilities and mobile units with sustained funding for twenty-four-hour dedicated staff, examiners, advocates, counselors and nurses with private interview environments in addition to Indian health service hospital inpatient, outpatient and emergency room staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the governor and New Mexico's twenty-three Indian nations, tribes and pueblos.

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