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SENATE MEMORIAL 30

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY TO CONDUCT A STUDY THAT EVALUATES THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING HEALTH COVERAGE TO ALL BRAIN INJURY PATIENTS AND THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A BRAIN INJURY REGISTRY THAT TRACKS BRAIN INJURY STATISTICS ACROSS NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, approximately two million people a year are treated in emergency rooms across the country for brain injuries; and

WHEREAS, there are many causes of brain injuries, including trauma to the brain, ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke, anoxic injury after cardiac arrest or drug overdose, severe brain infection, brain tumors and neurotoxic injury; and

WHEREAS, there are over one hundred thousand adult New Mexicans who are in need of ongoing treatment for their brain

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1 injuries; and

2 WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries kill more people in New  
3 Mexico each year than opioid overdoses; and

4 WHEREAS, those who survive brain injuries are at greater  
5 risk of developing dementia and behavioral health issues; and

6 WHEREAS, the health care system in most of New Mexico has  
7 little to no capacity to appropriately identify and treat  
8 people living with brain injuries; and

9 WHEREAS, providing and funding adequate coverage for brain  
10 injury services and supports creates new jobs and business  
11 opportunities, while allowing individuals with brain injuries  
12 to remain in New Mexico rather than being forced to seek care  
13 out of state; and

14 WHEREAS, several states have developed health coverage  
15 legislation or billing codes for proper treatment and coverage  
16 for brain injury services and supports without significantly  
17 raising premium rates for the general public; and

18 WHEREAS, currently, health coverage laws in New Mexico do  
19 not require the provision of adequate supports and services for  
20 individuals living with brain injuries; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to break the cycle of violence,  
22 poverty, incarceration, institutional care, isolation,  
23 overburdened support systems, substandard living conditions and  
24 homelessness that has too often been the fate of individuals  
25 living with brain injuries;

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1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
2 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor's commission on disability be  
3 requested to conduct a study on the feasibility of:

4           A. requiring health insurance coverage to provide a  
5 continuum of health care, therapeutic services and job  
6 development services that individuals living with brain  
7 injuries and related conditions require for recovery and  
8 maximum independence; and

9           B. establishing a brain injury registry to track  
10 the occurrence, functional outcome and effectiveness of brain  
11 injury treatment; and

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor's commission on  
13 disability consult with representatives of the office of  
14 superintendent of insurance, the human services department, the  
15 department of health, the brain injury alliance of New Mexico,  
16 the university of New Mexico department of psychology clinic,  
17 the risk management division of the general services  
18 department, the retiree health care authority, the public  
19 school insurance authority, the Albuquerque public school  
20 district and the United States department of health and human  
21 services to complete the feasibility studies; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor's commission on  
23 disability be requested to report findings and recommendations  
24 to the legislative health and human services committee and the  
25 legislative finance committee by November 1, 2023; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
2 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the governor's  
3 commission on disability, the chair and vice chair of the  
4 legislative health and human services committee, the chair and  
5 vice chair of the legislative finance committee, the United  
6 States secretary of health and human services, the  
7 superintendent of insurance, the brain injury alliance of New  
8 Mexico, the university of New Mexico department of psychology  
9 clinic, the director of the risk management division of the  
10 general services department, the director of the retiree health  
11 care authority, the director of the public school insurance  
12 authority, the secretary of public education and the  
13 superintendent of the Albuquerque public school district.