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43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER ACTIONS TO CORRECT PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH REIMBURSEMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDERS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, much of the business of the state is accomplished by private entrepreneurs, vendors and contractors; and

WHEREAS, when the state receives services rendered by private business pursuant to a purchase agreement or contract for services it is legally and morally incumbent upon the state to pay its bills; and

WHEREAS, private businesses depend on customers and clients to pay their bills or those private businesses providing products and services to the state may be faced with credit

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claims being pressed against them or even forced into bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, businesses and private individuals must pay their bills or be subject to legal action; and

WHEREAS, many of the businesses that provide services to the department of health, the human services department and the children, youth and families department have not been paid for their services, sometimes carrying debts by the state for as long as two years; and

WHEREAS, repeated efforts by service contractors and vendors to obtain payment from the state for their services have failed:

NOW. THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to form a task force to determine the source of the problems of unpaid bills of the state and correct those problems, making the necessary payments for unreimbursed claims against the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretaries of finance and administration, health, human services and children, youth and families be directed by the governor to cooperate with the small business community, state vendors and contractors, service providers and provider associations to pay the state's bills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its

actions to the appropriate committee designated by the New Mexico legislative council by December 1, 1997; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the secretaries of finance and administration, health, human services and children, youth and families.

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State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 17, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your **CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 88

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gary King, Chairman

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

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| 7 | The roll o | call vote was <u>6</u> For <u>0</u> Aga | inst | |
| 8 | Yes: | 6 | | |
| 9 | Excused: | Johnson, Rios, Sandel, Vi | gi l | |
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