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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 56

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

INTRODUCED BY

CYNTHIA NAVA

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its

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

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

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