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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 76
44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999
INTRODUCED BY
J. Paul Taylor

A JOINT MEMORIAL
RECOGNIZING THE HARMFUL IMPACT OF THE FEDERAL BALANCED BUDGET
ACT OF 1997 ON THE PROVISION OF HOME HEALTH SERVICES TO THE
SICK AND ELDERLY; REQUESTING AN ASSESSMENT.

WHEREAS, the federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997
significantly reduced the federal payment structure for
services for the sick, disabled and elderly provided by home
health care agencies, with these changes going into effect in
the fall of 1997; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of these changes, fifty New
Mexico home health care agencies have gone out of business;
and

WHEREAS, the impact of these changes has been so sudden
and so disastrous that it is not yet clear how many New
Mexicans are doing without health care for which they were

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1 previously eligible, including many critically needed services
2 most effectively available through home health care agencies;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, home health care includes registered nursing,
5 licensed practical nursing, occupational therapy, physical
6 therapy, speech and language pathology and home health aide
7 services; and

8 WHEREAS, the federal changes are clearly of such
9 magnitude that both New Mexico's congressional delegation and
10 the federal health and human services department are
11 conducting investigations to determine the impact of these
12 cutbacks; and

13 WHEREAS, the medicare program, under which many of these
14 services had been provided, will no longer be responsible for
15 major portions of long-term care services; and

16 WHEREAS, cutbacks in home health care means a very costly
17 increase in hospital re-admissions, nursing home admissions
18 and emergency room visits; and

19 WHEREAS, the state agency on aging's network of community
20 programs is under substantially increased demand for home
21 health care assistance for persons previously receiving
22 services through home health care agencies;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state agency on aging immediately
25 proceed with a statewide study of the impact of the home

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1 health care agency service cutbacks engendered by the federal
2 Balanced Budget Act of 1997; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state agency on aging
4 study develop possible short- and long-term resolutions to the
5 responsibility for providing needed in-home services rather
6 than institutionalizing hundreds if not thousands of sick,
7 disabled and elderly New Mexicans; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state agency on aging
9 seek participation of all appropriate governmental and private
10 agencies and organizations in addressing the concerns of
11 beneficiaries and home health care agencies; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state agencies assist the
13 state agency on aging by providing all necessary information
14 and statistics to accomplish the study; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state agency on aging
16 report its findings and recommendations to the legislative
17 health and human services committee by October 1, 1999 and
18 transmit copies of the final report to the federal health and
19 human services department, to the federal general accounting
20 office and to members of the New Mexico congressional
21 delegation; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 sent to the director of the state agency on aging and the
24 legislative health and human services committee.

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

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6 February 27, 1999

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8 Mr. Speaker:

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10 Your APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, to
11 whom has been referred

12
13 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 76

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

17 Respectfully submitted,

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22 Max Coll, Chairman
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

Page 5

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 11 For 0 Against

Yes: 11

Excused: Larrañaga, Parsons, Pearce, Picraux, Salazar, Watchman

Absent: None

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

March 12, 1999

Mr. President:

Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 76

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Robinson, Chairman

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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Adopted _____ Not

Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

Yes: 5

No: 0

Excused: Boitano, Howes, Ingle, Leavel

Absent: None

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