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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF NURSING TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS THE NURSING SHORTAGE CRISIS.

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the workforce solutions department in April 2025, there are nearly eighteen thousand registered nurses, one thousand three hundred licensed practical nurses and eight thousand three hundred advanced practice nurses currently practicing in the state of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, nursing is the largest sector of the health care workforce, yet there is a critical shortage of nurses in the state, which is taxing on the state's health care delivery systems and on access to care for state residents; and

WHEREAS, this shortage is exacerbated by a gap in education to meet workforce needs, and this gap is made clear by the thousands of nursing job postings each month according to the workforce solutions department; and

WHEREAS, even though appropriations in recent fiscal years have been provided to fund additional nursing school slots and faculty positions, rates of enrollment and degree completion in nursing programs are not increasing as needed; and

WHEREAS, approximately three thousand two hundred new

1 nurses need to graduate from nursing programs every year to
2 meet intended nurse staffing needs by 2032, but approximately
3 one thousand four hundred new nurses graduated in 2025;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the board of
6 nursing be requested to create a task force to identify
7 barriers to increasing nursing graduation rates and employee
8 retention consisting of one member from each of the following
9 organizations:

10 A. nursing professional organizations, including
11 the New Mexico nurses association, the New Mexico nurse
12 practitioner council, the New Mexico organization of nurse
13 leaders and nursing unions;

14 B. the New Mexico hospital association;

15 C. the New Mexico nursing education consortium;

16 D. New Mexico colleges of nursing deans or
17 delegates;

18 E. post-secondary educational institutions; and

19 F. high school licensed practical nurse programs;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
22 to report findings and recommendations to the appropriate
23 interim legislative committee that addresses health and human
24 services and the legislative finance committee and that the
25 report include:

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- A. barriers to employment retention;
- B. barriers to nursing educational slot expansion;
- C. barriers to nursing school enrollment and retention; and
- D. recommendations to improve the nursing educational gap to address nursing workforce needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the board of nursing, the appropriate interim legislative committee that addresses health and human services and the director of the legislative finance committee. _____