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HOUSE MEMORIAL 36

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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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

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1 by the thousands of nursing job postings each month according
2 to the workforce solutions department; and

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

7 WHEREAS, approximately three thousand two hundred new
8 nurses need to graduate from nursing programs every year to
9 meet intended nurse staffing needs by 2032, but approximately
10 one thousand four hundred new nurses graduated in 2025;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the board of
13 nursing be requested to create a task force to identify
14 barriers to increasing nursing graduation rates and employee
15 retention consisting of one member from each of the following
16 organizations:

17 A. nursing professional organizations, including
18 the New Mexico nurses association, the New Mexico nurse
19 practitioner council, the New Mexico organization of nurse
20 leaders and nursing unions;

21 B. the New Mexico hospital association;

22 C. the New Mexico nursing education consortium;

23 D. New Mexico colleges of nursing deans or
24 delegates;

25 E. post-secondary educational institutions; and

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