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SENATE MEMORIAL 29

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

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto and Linda M. López

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER TO COORDINATE WITH HEALTH CARE FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNICATION BARRIERS AND GAPS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT PREVENT THE EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS AND TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME THOSE BARRIERS AND FILL THOSE GAPS.

WHEREAS, language access in health care is vital for patient safety and equitable care; and

WHEREAS, effective communication between health care providers and patients can reduce medical errors by up to fifty percent; and

WHEREAS, limited language access in health care leads to major health care disparities; and

WHEREAS, there is a particular need for language access in

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1 New Mexico's health care system because of the melting pot of
2 cultures and languages in the state; and

3 WHEREAS, many of the hospitals in the state lack
4 sufficient language access services; and

5 WHEREAS, the need for more medical interpreters in New
6 Mexico is urgent; and

7 WHEREAS, to grow the medical interpreter workforce, the
8 state's infrastructure for training medical interpreters needs
9 to expand; and

10 WHEREAS, to adequately grow the state's capacity of
11 medical interpreter training programs, it is necessary to fully
12 understand the barriers and gaps in the health care system that
13 are preventing effective communication with patients;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
15 OF NEW MEXICO that the university of New Mexico health sciences
16 center be requested to coordinate with health facilities across
17 the state to better understand the communication barriers and
18 gaps in the health care system that prevent the effective
19 treatment of patients and to develop strategies to overcome
20 those barriers and fill those gaps; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico
22 health sciences center be encouraged to obtain and share data
23 related to the barriers and gaps in the health care system for
24 patients to assist persons who are developing or expanding a
25 medical interpreter training program; and

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