

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 60

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,  
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

Luciano "Lucky" Varela

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION, THE STATE AGENCY ON AGING, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND OTHERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO STUDY AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON LOW MEDICARE RATES AND UNFAIR METHODOLOGY.

WHEREAS, the present methodology used by the federal government to determine medicare payment rates results in disproportionately low rates for health care providers in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the resulting low medicare rates place a significant financial burden on New Mexico health care providers and result in limited access to services by medicare patients in urban and especially rural areas of the state; and

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1           WHEREAS, low medicare rates are causing an exodus of  
2 health care providers from the state; and

3           WHEREAS, the existing medicare methodology is inherently  
4 unfair, inequitable and discriminating;

5           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative finance committee,  
7 the department of health, the human services department, the  
8 New Mexico health policy commission, the office of the  
9 attorney general, the state agency on aging, New Mexico  
10 health plans and health care provider associations work  
11 cooperatively to study and develop recommendations to resolve  
12 issues related to low medicare rates and the unfair,  
13 inequitable and discriminatory medicare methodology; and

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that their findings and  
15 recommendations be presented to the legislative finance  
16 committee, the New Mexico legislative council and the office  
17 of the governor by October 15, 2000; and

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the legislative finance committee and its  
20 chair, the New Mexico legislative council, the New Mexico  
21 congressional delegation, the director of the health care  
22 financing administration, the secretary of the United States  
23 health and human services department, the New Mexico attorney  
24 general, the secretary of health, the secretary of human  
25 services, the chairman of the state agency on aging, the  
chairman of the New Mexico health policy commission and  
representatives of New Mexico health plans and health care

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