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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF  
HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTION RATES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, hospital-acquired infections affect  
approximately one million nine hundred thousand Americans  
each year;

WHEREAS, hospital-acquired infections cost billions of  
dollars per year nationwide and result in increased expenses  
to patients for extended hospital stays and additional  
medication; and

WHEREAS, approximately ninety thousand Americans die  
each year from hospital-acquired infections; and

WHEREAS, more people die from hospital-acquired  
infections than from automobile accidents and homicides  
combined; and

WHEREAS, many of the deaths and illnesses that result  
from hospital-acquired infections are preventable; and

WHEREAS, hand-washing has been shown to reduce hospital-  
acquired infections significantly, but hand-washing  
compliance rates are generally less than fifty percent  
nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the study and public disclosure of hospital  
infection rates provide a strong incentive for hospitals to  
improve those rates; and

1           WHEREAS, the study and public disclosure of hospital-  
2 acquired infection rates will facilitate the provision of  
3 information that the public needs to choose hospitals that  
4 achieve low infection rates and avoid those hospitals that do  
5 not achieve low infection rates; and

6           WHEREAS, studies of comprehensive hospital programs  
7 designed to address all types of hospital-acquired infections  
8 have realized reductions in hospital-acquired infections of  
9 more than fifty percent; and

10           WHEREAS, four states, Florida, Illinois, Missouri and  
11 Pennsylvania, require public disclosure of hospital-acquired  
12 infection rates; and

13           WHEREAS, New Mexico has an opportunity to be at the  
14 forefront of reform with respect to this issue;

15           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be  
17 requested to conduct a comprehensive study of hospital-  
18 acquired infection rates in New Mexico and present a written  
19 report of those infection rates that includes methods of  
20 prevention of hospital-acquired infections to the appropriate  
21 interim committee of the legislature by December 31, 2005;  
22 and

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that duplicate copies of the  
24 department of health's report be filed with the legislative  
25 council service library upon presentation of the report to

1 the appropriate interim committee of the legislature; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the secretary of health. \_\_\_\_\_

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