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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 32**  
**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**  
**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Rhonda S. King**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM FOR DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS AND HOW TO DELIVER THE NECESSARY SERVICES TO THAT POPULATION.**

**WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorders are neurobiological disorders that interfere with the normal development of communication and social interaction skills; and**

**WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorders are the second most common type of developmental disabilities and are seen in all ethnic, racial and socioeconomic groups throughout the world; and**

**WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorders are the fastest-growing developmental disability, with an annual cost of ninety billion**

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1 dollars (\$90,000,000,000); and

2 WHEREAS, the cost of lifelong care for an individual with  
3 an autism spectrum disorder may be reduced by two-thirds with  
4 early diagnosis and intervention; and

5 WHEREAS, early autism spectrum disorder diagnosis and  
6 intervention is instrumental in determining success; and

7 WHEREAS, a child up to age three may receive an  
8 interdisciplinary diagnosis through the department of health's  
9 family, infant, toddler program; and

10 WHEREAS, the center for development and disability at the  
11 university of New Mexico health sciences center began its  
12 interdisciplinary clinic in 1993 to provide autism spectrum  
13 disorders diagnoses; and

14 WHEREAS, because of a lack of funding, the waiting list  
15 for the center for development and disability interdisciplinary  
16 clinic is as long as eighteen months, which further delays  
17 appropriate intervention; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico has no system to determine the number  
19 of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, making it  
20 difficult to determine the amount of funding needed to develop  
21 and deliver necessary services;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE  
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative health and human services  
24 committee study the feasibility of establishing a system to  
25 determine the number and protect the confidentiality of

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1 individuals with autism spectrum disorders; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative health and  
3 human services committee study how to deliver the necessary  
4 services to individuals with autism spectrum disorders; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative health and  
6 human services committee study the feasibility of the center  
7 for development and disability, the department of health's  
8 family, infant, toddler program, the public education  
9 department and the legislative education study committee  
10 collaborating to develop a "one-stop shop" to coordinate all  
11 necessary autism spectrum disorders specialists to evaluate a  
12 child in one setting and to develop a comprehensive plan of  
13 action for early intervention; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council, the center  
16 for development and disability, the department of health, the  
17 public education department and the legislative education study  
18 committee.