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A JOINT MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING USE OF EFFICIENT AND SAFE VACCINES FOR NEW MEXICO CHILDREN.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature is committed to protecting the health of New Mexico's children and finds that effective and safe vaccines are essential to meet this goal; and

WHEREAS, based on a review of scientific literature, the clinical prevention initiative immunization workgroup, a joint effort of the New Mexico department of health and the New Mexico medical society has concluded that the influenza vaccine currently in use is safe and effective for use in children; and

WHEREAS, the mercury reduction task force has also determined that it is important to reduce children's exposure to mercury whenever possible, including in vaccines; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in the mercury content of vaccines has already occurred for all other routine childhood vaccines, including influenza vaccine for children younger than three years of age; and

WHEREAS, ensuring an adequate supply of influenza vaccine to New Mexico's health care providers is important to protect New Mexico's children and adults from serious illness and death due to influenza; and

1 WHEREAS, establishing a preference for influenza vaccine
2 that is thimerosal-free or contains only trace amounts of
3 thimerosal for pregnant women and children younger than eight
4 years of age follows the national precedent established when
5 thimerosal was removed or reduced from all other childhood
6 vaccines;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize and support the efforts
9 of the department of health, the New Mexico medical society,
10 the New Mexico pediatric society, the New Mexico immunization
11 coalition and other health care providers and organizations
12 to increase immunization rates among persons who are
13 recommended to receive influenza immunization, using all
14 licensed vaccines, with preference given to vaccines
15 containing no more than trace amounts of mercury; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature
17 support the policy of the department of health to purchase,
18 preferentially, influenza vaccine that is thimerosal-free or
19 contains only trace amounts of thimerosal for use for
20 pregnant women and young children, provided that the supply
21 of influenza vaccine to health care providers is not impeded
22 by the exercise of this preference; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature
24 support the efforts of the department of health, the New
25 Mexico medical society and others to encourage the production

1 and use of influenza vaccines containing no more than trace
2 amounts of mercury, especially for young children and
3 pregnant women; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of health be
5 directed to introduce a resolution to the association of
6 state and territorial health officers that calls for vaccine
7 manufacturers to move toward producing vaccine that contains
8 no mercury preservative; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico Legislature
10 convey to the United States food and drug administration its
11 position that adequate supplies of influenza vaccines
12 containing no more than trace amounts of mercury be produced
13 for young children and pregnant women as a step toward the
14 goal of removing mercury from all vaccines; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation and to
17 the governor. _____

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