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HOUSE MEMORIAL 60

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Daniel R. Foley

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
TO CONSIDER A COORDINATED, COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF INNOVATIVE  
HEALTH CARE REFORM INITIATIVES.

WHEREAS, health care expenditures continue to impact state  
and federal budgets as well as the cost of goods and services;  
and

WHEREAS, every individual carries a responsibility for  
that individual's health care management through wellness and  
prevention measures; and

WHEREAS, chronic problems such as obesity, hypertension,  
diabetes and depression are often preventable or at least  
treatable at an early stage; and

WHEREAS, wellness and prevention programs can lead to  
lifestyle behavior changes that are key to decreasing health

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1 care costs; and

2 WHEREAS, use of tobacco products continues to impact  
3 health care costs adversely while tobacco settlement proceeds  
4 are used on initiatives other than tobacco research and  
5 cessation programs; and

6 WHEREAS, employers and employees continue to pay rising  
7 insurance premiums, often to offset uncompensated care costs  
8 and lower public program reimbursement levels; and

9 WHEREAS, tax incentives can provide initiatives for  
10 employers, employees and individuals to obtain appropriate  
11 insurance for broad or specialized coverage as well as to  
12 increase coverage and thus spread the risk among larger groups  
13 of insured individuals; and

14 WHEREAS, the number of health care profession graduates  
15 from New Mexico colleges and universities has not kept pace  
16 with the attrition of health care professionals or with the  
17 demands of a growing population; and

18 WHEREAS, primary care clinics throughout the state provide  
19 an invaluable service for patients with limited or no access or  
20 coverage in rural and underserved areas; and

21 WHEREAS, consumer-driven, market-based health care reform  
22 efforts provide initiatives that can be more readily  
23 implemented and tested than public programs requiring extensive  
24 legislative or rulemaking procedures; and

25 WHEREAS, information technology and telecommunications

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1 offer an ability to streamline billing; claims processing;  
2 reimbursement; medical records storage and retrieval; and  
3 electronic prescriptions, databases and registries; as well as  
4 health care delivery and interfaces to remote and underserved  
5 areas; and

6 WHEREAS, the joint state-federal medicaid program  
7 continues to take a disproportionate amount of state and  
8 federal budget expenditures without a corresponding improvement  
9 in the health care profile of covered individuals;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative  
12 health and human services committee be requested to review  
13 health care reform from a broad perspective that includes  
14 wellness and prevention measures and initiatives; early  
15 diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases; tax incentives to  
16 assist more employers and individuals in purchasing insurance;  
17 expansion of medical school, nursing school and other health  
18 care profession schools to increase the number of graduates  
19 entering the health care work force; funding for primary health  
20 care clinics that provide primary and preventive care to  
21 uninsured persons and in underserved areas; market-based  
22 reforms that provide consumers with choices that meet their  
23 respective needs; development of information technology  
24 resources that increases consistency of information, claims and  
25 reimbursement among payers, providers and patients; medicaid

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1 reforms that recognize the cost-effectiveness of programs for  
2 women and children while ensuring that the most vulnerable  
3 persons, the elderly and disabled, receive assistance through  
4 innovative and effective programs; and, in conjunction with the  
5 tobacco settlement revenue oversight committee, the study of  
6 tobacco-related illnesses and efforts to reduce tobacco use,  
7 particularly among the youth; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative health and  
9 human services committee be requested to provide an appropriate  
10 forum to address these issues in a manner that allows the  
11 committee to consider and recommend broad and coordinated  
12 reform initiatives and work in conjunction with the tobacco  
13 settlement revenue oversight committee to address tobacco-  
14 related issues; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the legislative health and human services  
17 committee and the tobacco settlement revenue oversight  
18 committee.