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1 uninsured; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the nation's second-highest  
3 percentage of people living without health insurance coverage;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, almost one-third of New Mexican children who are  
6 eligible for medicaid are not enrolled; and

7 WHEREAS, health care providers and advocates for the poor  
8 report that the current application procedures for public  
9 benefits are burdensome and prevent eligible New Mexicans from  
10 receiving the benefits to which they are entitled;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be  
13 requested to:

14 A. conduct additional outreach so that New  
15 Mexicans who are potentially eligible for public benefits are  
16 made aware of existing programs and the steps they must take  
17 to apply for them;

18 B. use uniform and simple application procedures  
19 and policies in all field offices, so that eligible applicants  
20 are not incorrectly denied benefits;

21 C. ensure that applicants receive a receipt for  
22 their application so that they can provide the date and place  
23 they applied;

24 D. assist all applicants in both filling out the  
25 application and obtaining the verifications necessary to

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1 receive benefits;

2 E. ensure that anyone who applies for a benefits  
3 program be screened for all programs for which the person may  
4 be eligible;

5 F. ensure that applicants do not have to wait more  
6 than one hour to see a caseworker to receive assistance with  
7 benefits programs;

8 G. translate all forms into Spanish and, upon  
9 request, other languages used by the clients; and

10 H. identify applicants needing special assistance  
11 with the application procedures and give them that assistance;  
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department  
14 be requested to track the use of the outlined procedures and  
15 report to the interim legislative welfare reform oversight  
16 committee concerning its progress in the fall of 2007 and the  
17 fall of 2008; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the secretary of human services and the  
20 governor.

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