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HOUSE MEMORIAL 4

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

INTRODUCED BY

Danice Picraux

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ANALYZE THE  
MEDICAID RENEW PILOT PROJECT, TO PROVIDE DATA REGARDING CASE  
CLOSURES AND REINSTATEMENTS, TO REFRAIN FROM CASE CLOSURES  
WITHOUT A FINDING OF INELIGIBILITY, TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS CAUSING  
MEDICAID-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO LOSE COVERAGE AND  
TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, federal law and regulation require that medicaid  
recipients renew their medicaid applications at least once  
every twelve months; and

WHEREAS, federal law and regulation prohibit a state from  
closing a medicaid case unless the state has made a finding  
that the family is no longer eligible; and

WHEREAS, since May 2004, the numbers of women, children  
and low-income families enrolled in medicaid have been highly

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1 unstable and have decreased overall; and

2 WHEREAS, a study by the nonpartisan research company,  
3 Mathematica policy research, incorporated, concluded that  
4 seventy percent of children lose their medicaid coverage every  
5 year; and

6 WHEREAS, continuity of care is important, especially for  
7 children receiving preventive care and developmental  
8 screenings; and

9 WHEREAS, in October 2007, the human services department  
10 instituted a statewide pilot project called the "medicaid renew  
11 pilot project", intended to simplify the renewal process for  
12 both the caseworkers and for women, children and low-income  
13 families; and

14 WHEREAS, under the medicaid renew pilot project, children,  
15 women and low-income families who are receiving medicaid and  
16 are not receiving benefits from other programs may now renew  
17 their medicaid coverage without submitting a signed renewal  
18 form and instead may renew their medicaid by telephone,  
19 electronic mail, facsimile or regular mail; and

20 WHEREAS, the human services department has reported an  
21 increase in the number of children enrolled in medicaid since  
22 the implementation of the medicaid renew pilot project; and

23 WHEREAS, the medicaid renew pilot project remains only a  
24 pilot project and has not been permanently adopted by the human  
25 services department, pending an analysis of the success of the

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1 pilot project;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human  
4 services department be requested to conduct an analysis of the  
5 medicaid renew pilot project that demonstrates how successful  
6 the pilot project has been, including the number of women,  
7 children and low-income family medicaid cases that are due to  
8 renew every month, the number of renewal notices issued every  
9 month, the dates that those renewal notices are issued, the  
10 number of families that respond every month, the dates that  
11 those families respond, the number of renewal applications that  
12 are processed every month and the number of cases that are  
13 denied or renewed every month; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department  
15 be requested to provide data showing how many women, children  
16 and low-income family medicaid cases are closed every month and  
17 when, if ever, they are reinstated; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department  
19 be requested to refrain from terminating any medicaid case  
20 unless and until the human services department has determined  
21 one of the following to be true:

22 A. the participant is no longer financially  
23 eligible;

24 B. the participant has received notification of  
25 requirements for renewal and has failed to meet those

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1 requirements within thirty days of notification; or

2 C. the participant can no longer be reached through  
3 any reasonable measures, including telephone, reverse postal  
4 look-up, re-mailing or checking other applicable state data  
5 systems for a more recent address; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department  
7 be requested to resolve any problems it uncovers concerning  
8 eligible medicaid recipients experiencing a lapse or an end to  
9 their medicaid coverage; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department  
11 be requested to report to the interim legislative health and  
12 human services committee and the interim welfare reform  
13 oversight committee and to the legislative finance committee on  
14 its findings and any corrective action taken in July 2008 and  
15 again in November 2008; and

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

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