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HOUSE MEMORIAL 125

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO MAKE MONTHLY REPORTS AND TO RETAIN DOCUMENTATION REGARDING MEDICAID AND THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION.

WHEREAS, the medicaid and state children's health insurance programs provide health coverage to over four hundred thirty thousand New Mexicans, or approximately one out of every five residents; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in medicaid has been very unstable for children, women and families over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, almost one-third of New Mexico children who are eligible for medicaid and the state children's health insurance program are not enrolled; and

WHEREAS, health care providers and advocates for the poor

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1 report that individuals have had their cases denied or
2 terminated by administrative procedures that prevent eligible
3 people from receiving benefits to which they are entitled; and

4 WHEREAS, collecting data on enrollment and retention is
5 essential for evaluating the medicaid program, maximizing
6 enrollment and enhancing administrative efficiency; and

7 WHEREAS, well-run programs around the country routinely
8 collect data on case denial and closure rates, point-in-time
9 enrollment and budgets listed by type of enrollee; and

10 WHEREAS, the human services department collects and stores
11 information on the reasons why medicaid applications are denied
12 and cases are closed, but does not publicly report these
13 reasons; and

14 WHEREAS, the human services department provides denial
15 rates and closure rates for other public assistance programs in
16 a monthly statistical report, including these rates for the
17 supplemental nutritional assistance program formerly known as
18 the food stamp program, temporary assistance for needy
19 families and general assistance programs, but not for the
20 medicaid program; and

21 WHEREAS, all states must report data under new federal
22 requirements on the enrollment of children in medicaid and the
23 state children's health insurance program, including data on
24 eligibility criteria, enrollment and retention, and denials and
25 redeterminations of eligibility;

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human
3 services department be requested to make available on an
4 internet web site that the department maintains, and through
5 publication of a monthly statistical report, data to assess the
6 enrollment and retention of individuals who are eligible for
7 medicaid and the state children's health insurance program,
8 including annual budget projections and expenditures by
9 category of eligibility, monthly point-in-time numbers of
10 enrolled recipients, listed by each category of eligibility,
11 showing the number of individuals actually enrolled in medicaid
12 or the state children's health insurance program at the time of
13 reporting; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
15 include in the report monthly denial rates for medicaid and the
16 state children's health insurance program, including for each
17 month the number of applications that the department received;
18 the number of applications that the department approved; the
19 number of applications that the department denied; and for
20 those applications denied, the number of cases denied and the
21 denial code, listing according to income or asset
22 ineligibility; voluntary withdrawal; procedural denial;
23 categorical ineligibility; or any other reason for denial or
24 ineligibility; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department

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1 be requested to report monthly the termination rates for
2 medicaid and state children's health insurance program cases,
3 including the number of cases due for renewal, the number of
4 renewals received, the number of renewals denied, the number of
5 recipients whose cases were terminated, along with the reason
6 for termination by code, and the number of recipients that the
7 department disenrolled and reinstated within six months; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
9 be requested to report to the interim legislative health and
10 human services committee and provide that committee with the
11 data set forth in this memorial by November 1, 2009 and again
12 by November 1, 2010, as well as provide that committee with a
13 report concerning its progress on providing the public with
14 this data; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of human services
17 and the chair and vice chair of the legislative health and
18 human services committee.

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