

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL BUREAU
3 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE NEW MEXICO CANCER CARE
4 ALLIANCE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO RECOMMEND WAYS TO
5 EXPAND ACCESS TO CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS TO ALL PARTS OF THE
6 STATE.

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8 WHEREAS, approximately one million five hundred thousand
9 new cancer cases were diagnosed in the United States in 2008,
10 including eight thousand two hundred sixty new cases in New
11 Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, over five hundred sixty-five thousand Americans
13 die of cancer each year, including three thousand three
14 hundred ten New Mexicans; and

15 WHEREAS, cancer is the second most common cause of death
16 in the United States, exceeded only by heart disease; and

17 WHEREAS, all aspects of cancer treatment should be
18 available to all New Mexicans; and

19 WHEREAS, for patients for whom standard cancer
20 treatments are no longer effective, the best cancer therapies
21 offered through clinical research must be accessible to New
22 Mexico patients; and

23 WHEREAS, engaging in a clinical trial system that allows
24 patients to remain in their homes and receive care from a
25 familiar physician is cost-effective and easy on the patient;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, cancer clinical trials are not available in
3 many rural areas of the state;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the chronic disease prevention and
6 control bureau of the department of health and the New Mexico
7 cancer care alliance be requested to convene a working group;
8 and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include
10 representatives of the chronic disease prevention and control
11 bureau of the department of health, the medical assistance
12 division of the human services department, the New Mexico
13 cancer care alliance, the rural issues workgroup of the
14 university of New Mexico cancer center and the New Mexico
15 cancer council, a representative from an insurance health
16 plan, at least three medical oncologists who participate in
17 clinical trials, a rural practitioner and a primary care
18 physician; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group identify
20 gaps in current patient access to cancer clinical trials,
21 identify and investigate methods to expand cancer clinical
22 trials to areas of the state where they are currently
23 unavailable and identify potential funding sources for
24 expansion of services; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group present

1 its recommendations to the legislative health and human
2 services committee by October 2010; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of human
5 services and the president of the New Mexico cancer care
6 alliance.

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