

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 37

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Brian F. Egolf

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY  
AND VALUE OF ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE CARDIOVASCULAR  
DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, according to the department of health, heart  
disease is the leading cause of death in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in New  
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, diseases of the heart and stroke claimed  
nearly four thousand lives, accounting for over one-fourth of  
all deaths in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, although the death rate from cardiovascular  
disease has been declining in New Mexico over the last fifteen  
years, an increase in such risk factors as obesity and diabetes  
could reverse this trend if action is not taken; and

.180599.1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, in New Mexico, from 1996 to 2000, Native American  
2 and Hispanic men and women had higher rates of death from  
3 diseases of the heart than people of other ethnic backgrounds  
4 in the United States; and

5           WHEREAS, according to the department of health, in 2007,  
6 an estimated three hundred ninety million dollars  
7 (\$390,000,000) was spent in New Mexico on treatment related to  
8 heart disease, while lost productivity accounted for an  
9 additional seven hundred eighty million dollars (\$780,000,000);  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, according to the department of health, the cost  
12 of stroke in New Mexico amounted to an estimated seventy  
13 million dollars (\$70,000,000), and lost productivity due to  
14 stroke amounted to an estimated additional one hundred thirty  
15 million dollars (\$130,000,000); and

16           WHEREAS, according to the federal centers for disease  
17 control and prevention, nearly eighty-five million dollars  
18 (\$85,000,000) of the treatment expenditures for heart disease  
19 and stroke in New Mexico in 2007 was estimated to have been  
20 paid by medicaid; and

21           WHEREAS, the centers for disease control and prevention  
22 funds a state heart disease and stroke prevention program in  
23 funding cycles of five years; and

24           WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of eight states currently not  
25 receiving federal funding to implement this program; and

.180599.1

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, according to the department of health, New Mexico  
2 applies for funding from the centers for disease control and  
3 prevention every time the funding opportunity is available;  
4 however, the state has not been funded due to the low incidence  
5 of cardiovascular disease and stroke relative to other states;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, the next opportunity to apply for funding from  
8 the centers for disease control and prevention will occur in  
9 2012; and

10          WHEREAS, as the population of New Mexico ages and the  
11 incidence of obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases  
12 rises, the amount expended for direct medical costs related to  
13 heart disease and stroke as well as expenditures related to  
14 lost productivity will continue to rise; and

15          WHEREAS, the public health division of the department of  
16 health has numerous prevention programs and activities that  
17 address aspects of cardiovascular disease and stroke, including  
18 diabetes prevention, obesity prevention, tobacco prevention and  
19 a stroke advisory council, but there is no consolidated program  
20 targeted at reducing the incidence of cardiovascular disease  
21 and stroke in the state; and

22          WHEREAS, a cardiovascular prevention program could result  
23 in significant cost savings and a healthier and more productive  
24 state;

25          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

.180599.1

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested  
2 to study the feasibility and value of establishing a  
3 comprehensive cardiovascular disease program in New Mexico; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study calculate the  
5 amount of funding that would be needed to implement a  
6 cardiovascular disease prevention program and identify barriers  
7 to and opportunities for obtaining federal funding for this  
8 program through the centers for disease control and prevention;  
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study include projections  
11 of the future cost of medical care and lost productivity due to  
12 cardiovascular disease and stroke in New Mexico, including  
13 population trends and demographic information that may suggest  
14 an increase in the incidence of these diseases in the state;  
15 and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study estimate the amount  
17 of savings that could be achieved, including savings to the  
18 medicaid program, through implementation of a cardiovascular  
19 disease prevention program; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that findings and recommendations  
21 from this study be reported to the interim legislative health  
22 and human services committee by November 2010 and that copies  
23 of the report be distributed to the legislative council  
24 service's library; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

.180599.1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

transmitted to the secretary of health.

- 5 -