

1 A MEMORIAL

2 CALLING FOR THE SENATE TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE AND
3 CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW MEXICO PROVIDED BY FIRST CHOICE
4 COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE, INCORPORATED.

5
6 WHEREAS, First Choice community healthcare,
7 incorporated, is a federally qualified, joint commission-
8 accredited health care delivery system that has provided
9 primary medical, dental and behavioral health services to
10 underserved and uninsured populations of the mid-Rio Grande
11 valley of central New Mexico for the past forty years; and

12 WHEREAS, the communities served by First Choice lie
13 within a five-county area that is the statistically most
14 populated metropolitan area in the state, making First Choice
15 the medical home to seven hundred thousand people; and

16 WHEREAS, First Choice is governed by a community-based,
17 volunteer board of directors that reflects the ethnic, racial
18 and economic diversity of the communities in which First
19 Choice is located, and more than fifty percent of the board
20 members are users of First Choice services; and

21 WHEREAS, First Choice operates eight health centers
22 strategically located in Albuquerque, Los Lunas, Belen and
23 Edgewood and one school-based health clinic located at
24 Rio Grande high school in the south valley of Albuquerque;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, First Choice provides primary medical and
2 dental services, behavioral health care and care management
3 and women, infant and children program services; and

4 WHEREAS, First Choice serves everyone, regardless of
5 ability to pay, and all of its health centers provide
6 discounted patient fees through a sliding fee scale, have
7 access to federal 340B contract pharmacy services and have
8 established patient referral patterns to facilitate direct
9 access to needed specialty care, emergency care and hospital
10 inpatient services; and

11 WHEREAS, First Choice employs over three hundred thirty
12 individuals, seventy of whom are licensed providers of health
13 care, including physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners,
14 physician assistants, dental hygienists and behaviorists; and

15 WHEREAS, in response to the need to increase access to
16 primary care services in the mid-Rio Grande valley of central
17 New Mexico, First Choice has doubled its capacity to serve
18 over the last five years; and

19 WHEREAS, in February 2008, the new forty-two-thousand-
20 square-foot south valley health commons opened, replacing a
21 thirty-five-year-old structure and allowing First Choice to
22 triple its capacity to serve at this site; and

23 WHEREAS, in December 2010, First Choice collaborated
24 with the federal government, the state, Bernalillo county and
25 the city of Albuquerque to remodel the vacant former state

1 income support building, and the resulting fifteen-thousand-
2 square-foot William street structure, which replaces an old
3 five-thousand-square-foot structure, will allow First Choice
4 to double its capacity to serve residents of that south
5 Broadway neighborhood in Albuquerque; and

6 WHEREAS, in October 2010, First Choice received an
7 eight-million-one-hundred-thousand-dollar (\$8,100,000) grant
8 from the federal health resources and services administration
9 to construct and equip a new health center in Valencia
10 county, which will be completed by August 2012, will replace
11 an aging four-thousand-five-hundred-square-foot structure in
12 Los Lunas and will allow First Choice to triple its capacity
13 to serve residents of Valencia county; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2010, First Choice provided a medical care
15 home to sixty thousand people who visited more than two
16 hundred sixty-eight thousand times to receive care in a
17 twelve-month period, which included medical, dental and
18 women, infant and children program encounters; and

19 WHEREAS, First Choice collaborates with the university
20 of New Mexico hospital, the university of New Mexico health
21 sciences center, the department of health, county and local
22 governments, the federal government, other local service
23 providers and the community to structure innovative models of
24 care and service delivery that maximize the collective
25 resources for the betterment of the communities served; and

