

HOUSE MEMORIAL 49

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE TO STUDY MEASURES TO REDUCE THE COST OF PROVIDING HEALTH CARE TO INCARCERATED OFFENDERS WHILE MAINTAINING QUALITY OF CARE.

WHEREAS, as of June 30, 2011, the corrections department housed more than six thousand five hundred incarcerated offenders; and

WHEREAS, incarcerated offenders frequently have serious medical conditions and include many women with high-risk pregnancies that require intensive medical care; and

WHEREAS, according to corrections department data, approximately twenty-five percent of all inmates have a preexisting psychiatric illness and over eighty-five percent of all inmates have a substance abuse or substance dependence

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1 disorder; and

2 WHEREAS, the corrections department has recently  
3 restructured its health services bureau to integrate and  
4 improve the quality of services; and

5 WHEREAS, a goal of the department's strategic plan for  
6 2011-2012 is to lower the cost of corrections; and

7 WHEREAS, the detection of fraud, waste and abuse is  
8 critical to controlling health care costs; and

9 WHEREAS, detection of fraud, waste and abuse can be  
10 accomplished through the analysis of automated health claims  
11 data; and

12 WHEREAS, under certain circumstances, including inpatient  
13 admission to a hospital, nursing facility, juvenile psychiatric  
14 facility or intermediate care facility, federal law permits the  
15 corrections department to bill eligible health services  
16 provided to incarcerated offenders to the state's medicaid  
17 program; and

18 WHEREAS, an automated claims processing system could be  
19 used to identify health care claims eligible for submission to  
20 the medicaid program; and

21 WHEREAS, the corrections department contracts with various  
22 vendors and providers for health care and behavioral health  
23 services; and

24 WHEREAS, a periodic review of the corrections department's  
25 health care and behavioral health services contracts should be

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1 undertaken to identify opportunities for potential cost savings  
2 and efficiency while maintaining quality of care;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
5 legislative council be requested to direct the legislative  
6 health and human services committee to work with the  
7 corrections department to develop recommendations for achieving  
8 cost savings while maintaining quality health care for  
9 incarcerated offenders; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative  
11 council be requested to direct the legislative health and human  
12 services committee to include in its considerations:

13 A. use of state-of-the-art automated claims  
14 processing to prevent health care fraud, waste and abuse;

15 B. adoption of an automated web-based system to  
16 screen and enroll each inmate at intake for medicaid  
17 eligibility and to track each inmate's medicaid eligibility  
18 status thereafter;

19 C. use of state-of-the-art automated claims  
20 processing to identify health care claims that are medicaid-  
21 eligible;

22 D. a review of existing corrections department  
23 contracts for health care and behavioral health services to  
24 identify potential areas of cost savings and efficiencies while  
25 maintaining quality of care; and

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