

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 33

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A  
12 HEALTH CARE REFORM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE TO  
13 MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL  
14 HEALTH CARE REFORM IN THE STATE.

15  
16 WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable  
17 Care Act of 2010, also known as the Affordable Care Act, was  
18 passed in March 2010; and

19 WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act provides for billions of  
20 dollars in grants to states, so far bringing more than one  
21 hundred thirty-five million dollars (\$135,000,000) in federal  
22 grants to New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act requires states to set  
24 up, or allow the federal government to establish, state health  
25 insurance exchanges to make health coverage as well as

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1 information on choosing the right plan accessible to New  
2 Mexicans; and

3 WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act seeks to expand health  
4 coverage to most New Mexicans by making affordable coverage  
5 available through medicaid expansion, subsidies for private  
6 insurance offered on health insurance exchanges and programs  
7 such as the basic health program; and

8 WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act changes many of the rules  
9 regarding how insurance coverage is provided, such as  
10 guaranteeing coverage to anyone who applies, banning  
11 preexisting condition exclusions and rescissions and requiring  
12 coverage for certain preventive services; and

13 WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act provides for many  
14 programs and over thirty grants that could assist in addressing  
15 many of New Mexico's health care work force needs; and

16 WHEREAS, many of the Affordable Care Act's provisions  
17 require state action to bring New Mexico into compliance with  
18 federal law and to reap the benefits of the opportunities it  
19 offers; and

20 WHEREAS, the office of the governor has created an office  
21 of health care reform to implement the executive branch's plans  
22 for carrying out the provisions of the Affordable Care Act; and

23 WHEREAS, as the policymaking branch of New Mexico  
24 government, the legislature has a crucial role to play in  
25 ensuring that the Affordable Care Act is implemented under

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1 legislative direction;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be  
4 requested to create an interim health care reform oversight  
5 committee of the legislature made up of members drawn equally  
6 from the senate and the house of representatives; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the health care reform  
8 oversight committee be charged with reviewing the grant  
9 applications and expenditures as well as policy implementation  
10 that the executive branch undertakes pursuant to the Affordable  
11 Care Act; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the health care reform  
13 oversight committee be charged with receiving input and  
14 recommendations from the public and from advisory groups; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the health care reform  
16 oversight committee make recommendations for administrative,  
17 legislative, regulatory, operational and financial actions  
18 necessary to implement and supplement the provisions of the  
19 Affordable Care Act; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the health care reform  
21 oversight committee make recommendations regarding: the  
22 creation of a health insurance exchange or other entities  
23 designated in the Affordable Care Act; the creation of any  
24 other entities to supplement the provisions of the Affordable  
25 Care Act; changes in state law necessary to reconcile

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1 differences or conflicts between federal and New Mexico  
2 insurance law; changes to policy regarding medicaid, health  
3 care work force development, community clinics, health care  
4 disparities and health information systems; and other health-  
5 related issues; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the health care reform  
7 oversight committee be charged with meeting at least monthly  
8 during the months of June through November 2012; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico legislative  
11 council.