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SENATE MEMORIAL 42

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

INTRODUCED BY
Howie Morales

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM, THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT AN INTEGRATED ENROLLMENT SYSTEM FOR MEDICAID, ANY HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE AND BASIC HEALTH PROGRAM COVERAGE.

WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 was enacted on March 23, 2010 to launch comprehensive health care reform; and

WHEREAS, the overall approach of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to expand access to health care requires most United States citizens and legal residents to have health insurance; and

WHEREAS, the act expands medicaid to all citizens and qualifying immigrants earning up to one hundred thirty-eight

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1 percent of the federal poverty level; and

2 WHEREAS, the act requires states to create health
3 insurance exchanges through which individuals and small
4 businesses can purchase health insurance coverage; and

5 WHEREAS, the act provides that states may opt, through a
6 basic health program, to offer a selection of health plans at
7 prices families can afford as a bridge between medicaid and the
8 private insurance market; and

9 WHEREAS, the New Mexico office of health care reform
10 projects that by January 1, 2020, more than one million New
11 Mexicans, or one-half of the state's population, will have
12 access to health care through medicaid, a health insurance
13 exchange or basic health program coverage; and

14 WHEREAS, under federal health care reform, more than one
15 hundred fifty thousand New Mexican adults will be newly
16 eligible for medicaid; and

17 WHEREAS, more than two hundred fifty thousand individual
18 New Mexicans, as well as many small employers, are projected to
19 be eligible for federal subsidies to purchase health care
20 coverage through an exchange; and

21 WHEREAS, under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
22 Act, states must develop a streamlined enrollment system by
23 January 1, 2014 that provides a single application for
24 determining eligibility for medicaid, as well as for any health
25 insurance exchange and any basic health program coverage, and

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1 that ensures no wrong-door access; and

2 WHEREAS, under the act, states must establish procedures
3 for conducting outreach and enrollment for vulnerable and
4 underserved populations and develop a community-based navigator
5 program for the exchange that assists consumers with applying
6 for all of the health care subsidy programs; and

7 WHEREAS, under the act, the enrollment system and
8 application process for insurance premium credits and
9 cost-sharing subsidies should be easy to use and understand and
10 be accessible to those with disabilities or with limited
11 English-language proficiency; and

12 WHEREAS, the human services department will receive
13 federal matching funds that will pay ninety percent of the
14 costs of developing a new computer system for medicaid that is
15 capable of coordinating application and enrollment functions
16 with other public benefits and health care programs; and

17 WHEREAS, the New Mexico office of health care reform was
18 awarded thirty-four million two hundred thousand dollars
19 (\$34,200,000) in federal grant money to establish an exchange,
20 including funds to develop an enrollment system for the
21 exchange that will provide online applications, telephone
22 support and navigators and that is capable of coordinating
23 enrollment functions with the medicaid program; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the low-income comprehensive tax
25 rebate program, which requires submission of a tax form that

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1 provides information necessary for determining medicaid
2 eligibility;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE OF THE STATE OF
4 NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico office of health care reform and
5 the human services department be requested to plan and develop
6 a streamlined enrollment system for medicaid, any health
7 insurance exchange and basic health program coverage; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico office of
9 health care reform and the human services department be
10 requested to work with the taxation and revenue department to
11 enroll eligible persons into medicaid based on information
12 provided through the low-income comprehensive tax rebate
13 program, adjusting the tax form as necessary to facilitate
14 enrollment in medicaid; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the planning and development
16 process include among its goals:

17 A. implementation of an enrollment system that
18 provides a single standardized application for the health
19 subsidy programs;

20 B. enrollment in person, by mail, online, by
21 facsimile or by telephone;

22 C. using an enrollment application form that is
23 easy to use and understand;

24 D. a reduction in paperwork for applicants;

25 E. data exchanges between state and federal

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1 agencies wherever possible;

2 F. collection of only information necessary for
3 enrollment;

4 G. access for people with disabilities;

5 H. language interpretation and translation
6 services;

7 I. statewide outreach and a community-based
8 navigator program that reaches underserved communities; and

9 J. prompt determination of program eligibility to
10 minimize gaps in coverage; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico office of
12 health care reform and the human services department cooperate
13 in the collection and analysis of data to assess:

14 A. enrollment and retention rates;

15 B. reasons for denial of enrollment applications;

16 and

17 C. disparities in access to coverage and the
18 utilization of services; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the planning and development
20 process consider:

21 A. whether to adopt the application developed by
22 the United States secretary of health and human services under
23 the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or
24 develop a separate state form;

25 B. data collection standards for information such

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1 as race, ethnicity, primary language, location, gender, age and
2 disability status;

3 C. methods to improve retention rates, such as
4 renewing eligibility based on information from a public
5 benefits program;

6 D. the confidentiality of personal information
7 collected and its protection from unauthorized disclosure; and

8 E. acceptance of alternative documentation, such as
9 self-attestation, as proof of eligibility; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that stakeholders, including
11 consumers, small employers, representatives of federally
12 recognized Indian nations, tribes and pueblos located in New
13 Mexico, off-reservation Native Americans and organizations that
14 represent the disabled, women, children, the elderly and
15 low-income families, be given the opportunity to provide
16 meaningful input in the planning and development process; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico office of
18 health care reform, the human services department and the
19 taxation and revenue department be requested to make periodic
20 and final reports on the implementation of an integrated
21 enrollment system for medicaid, any health insurance exchange
22 and any basic health program coverage to the interim
23 legislative health and human services committee; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the New Mexico office of health care reform, the

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1 human services department, the taxation and revenue department
2 and the governor.

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