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HOUSE MEMORIAL 66

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY TO CONVENE A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COVERAGE FOR BRAIN INJURY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS.

WHEREAS, the federal agency for healthcare research and quality reports that approximately two million children, youth, adults and elders are treated in emergency rooms every year for brain injuries, including acquired brain injuries, traumatic brain injuries, strokes, anoxic or hypoxic brain injuries, neurotoxic brain injuries and ischemic brain injuries, among others; and

WHEREAS, more than three hundred thirty thousand children and youth sustain sports-related concussions, which are a type of brain injury, every year; and

WHEREAS, more than one million people a year sustain brain

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1 injuries from various other causes such as heart attacks,
2 tumors and seizure disorders; and

3 WHEREAS, brain injury is considered the leading cause of
4 death and disability in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, brain injury often leads to dementia or other
6 chronic diseases; and

7 WHEREAS, in rural, frontier and most urban settings in New
8 Mexico, there exists little or no capacity to treat people
9 living with brain injury, either initially or on a long-term
10 basis, with the integrated services required; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to break the cycle of violence,
12 poverty, incarceration, dependence upon the state,
13 institutional care, isolation, overburdened support systems,
14 substandard living conditions and homelessness that has too
15 often been the fate of individuals living with brain injury and
16 that of their families; and

17 WHEREAS, currently, health coverage laws in New Mexico do
18 not require the provision of adequate supports and services for
19 individuals living with brain injury; and

20 WHEREAS, providing adequate brain injury supports and
21 services coverage creates new business opportunities and jobs
22 and lets individuals living with brain injuries remain in the
23 state rather than being forced to seek care out of state; and

24 WHEREAS, a significant number of states have developed
25 health coverage legislation or billing codes for proper

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1 treatment and coverage for brain injury supports and services
2 without significantly raising premium rates for the general
3 public; and

4 WHEREAS, health coverage for brain injury supports and
5 services and well-tested, enhanced treatments improve outcomes
6 for individuals living with brain injury by decreasing their
7 disability levels and by increasing their level of
8 independence, restoring these individuals to their families,
9 communities and professional lives;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor's
12 commission on disability be requested to conduct a study of the
13 feasibility of establishing requirements for health insurance
14 coverage to provide a continuum of health care, therapeutic
15 services and job development services that individuals living
16 with brain injury and related conditions require for recovery
17 and maximum independence; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor's commission on
19 disability consult with representatives of the office of
20 superintendent of insurance, the human services department, the
21 risk management division of the general services department,
22 the retiree health care authority, the public school insurance
23 authority, the Albuquerque public school district and the
24 United States department of health and human services in
25 examining the feasibility of including health coverage benefits

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1 to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with
2 brain injury and their families; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor's commission on
4 disability be requested to report findings and recommendations
5 to the legislative health and human services committee and the
6 legislative finance committee by November 1, 2016; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the governor's
9 commission on disability, the chair and vice chair of the
10 legislative health and human services committee, the chair and
11 vice chair of the legislative finance committee, the
12 superintendent of insurance, the director of the risk
13 management division of the general services department, the
14 director of the retiree health care authority, the director of
15 the public school insurance authority and the acting
16 superintendent of the Albuquerque public school district.