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HOUSE MEMORIAL 89

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

INTRODUCED BY

Terry H. McMillan

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REPORT ON THE STATUS OF
EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, three out of one thousand children are born with
a hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, according to the American academy of audiology,
hearing loss is "the most common developmental disorder
identifiable at birth"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the impact on an individual
child's education, cognitive and social development, the "under
identification and lack of appropriate management of hearing
loss in children has broad economic effects"; and

WHEREAS, the American academy of pediatrics recommends
that all infants should be screened for hearing loss by the age
of one month; and

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1 WHEREAS, infants who do not pass a hearing screening
2 should receive a comprehensive audiological evaluation by three
3 months of age; and

4 WHEREAS, the American academy of pediatrics also
5 recommends that infants with confirmed hearing loss receive
6 appropriate intervention services from "health care and
7 education professionals with expertise in hearing loss and
8 deafness in infants and young children" by the age of six
9 months; and

10 WHEREAS, the American academy of audiology cites several
11 studies showing that early identification of hearing loss
12 "combined with quality early intervention services is
13 associated with language development at or near that of
14 children without hearing loss"; and

15 WHEREAS, the federal centers for disease control and
16 prevention has adopted these recommendations in its support for
17 early hearing detection and intervention programs at the state
18 level; and

19 WHEREAS, while New Mexico requires hearing screenings for
20 newborns and currently mandates reporting all results of
21 newborn hearing screenings and suspected or confirmed
22 congenital hearing loss in one or both ears, the federal
23 centers for disease control and prevention has determined that
24 for 2013, the state has only collected five and one-half
25 percent of diagnostic evaluation data; and

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1 WHEREAS, the ability to follow-up with diagnostic testing
2 to confirm hearing loss and to ensure that infants receive
3 early intervention services is dependent upon the department of
4 health's ability to track and monitor follow-up for infants
5 with suspected or confirmed hearing loss;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
8 of health be requested to report on the following matters, for
9 each calendar year beginning with January 1, 2014, to the
10 interim legislative health and human services committee:

11 A. the percentage of total newborns in New Mexico
12 screened relative to the mean in the United States;

13 B. the percentage of total infants in New Mexico
14 who failed both initial hearing screenings and the percentage
15 of those infants who received diagnostic testing relative to
16 the mean in the United States;

17 C. the average age at time of diagnosis confirming
18 hearing loss for infants in New Mexico and for infants
19 nationally;

20 D. the percentage of infants in New Mexico with
21 congenital hearing loss who received early intervention
22 services specific to hearing loss by six months of age;

23 E. for infants in New Mexico who qualified for
24 hearing aids of any sort, the mean age at which they received
25 them;

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1 F. the percentage of infants in New Mexico with a
2 risk factor associated with hearing loss compared to the mean
3 in the United States; and

4 G. the percentage of infants in New Mexico with one
5 or more risk factors for hearing loss who received follow-up
6 screening or testing compared to the mean in the United States;
7 and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
9 report on how it obtains information regarding newborn hearing
10 screenings, diagnostic testing of infants and early
11 intervention services for children under three years of age who
12 have suspected or confirmed hearing loss; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for each calendar year
14 beginning with January 1, 2014 and for each county, the
15 department of health report the total number of unduplicated:

- 16 A. newborns that received hearing screenings;
17 B. newborns that did not pass hearing screenings;
18 C. infants who received diagnostic testing to
19 confirm hearing loss;
20 D. infants for whom hearing loss was confirmed; and
21 E. infants who received early intervention services
22 by the age of six months; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
24 report on the membership, meetings and activities of its early
25 hearing detection and intervention group; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
2 report on such other matters as it determines would be of
3 interest to the interim legislative health and human services
4 committee relating to early hearing detection and intervention;
5 and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
7 include recommendations, if any, from its early hearing
8 detection and intervention group regarding the state's early
9 hearing detection and intervention program; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health make
11 its report to the interim legislative health and human services
12 committee no later than September 1, 2016; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the secretary of health, the chair and vice
15 chair of the interim legislative health and human services
16 committee and the chair of the disabilities concerns
17 subcommittee of the interim legislative health and human
18 services committee.

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