

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Benny Shendo, Jr.

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROTECT THE FEDERAL
12 INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT.

13
14 WHEREAS, the health care needs of American Indians are
15 unique and include many unaddressed issues; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the department of health, American
17 Indians in New Mexico bear a disproportionate share of poor
18 health status and disease; and

19 WHEREAS, access to health care services varies greatly
20 between urban Indians and Indians who reside on reservations;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, funding for Indian health services has
23 historically been inadequate in New Mexico and throughout the
24 United States; and

25 WHEREAS, the passage of the federal Patient Protection and

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1 Affordable Care Act and the permanent reauthorization of the
2 federal Indian Health Care Improvement Act offer significant
3 opportunities for tribes and Native American communities to
4 contribute to the improved health and well-being of American
5 Indians in New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, the health and well-being of American Indians in
7 New Mexico have benefited from increased tribal participation
8 in and expansion of tribal health programs; and

9 WHEREAS, the support, funding and opportunities provided
10 by the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
11 Act and the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care
12 Improvement Act have expanded and strengthened Indian
13 sovereignty by allowing New Mexico Indian pueblos, tribes and
14 nations to take ownership of the resources now available and to
15 contribute in a meaningful way to the improved health of all
16 American Indians in New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, the efforts of the United States congress to
18 repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
19 jeopardize the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health
20 Care Improvement Act; and

21 WHEREAS, the protection of the Indian Health Care
22 Improvement Act ensures that tribes and Native American
23 communities can continue to contribute to the improved health
24 and well-being of American Indians in New Mexico;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it protect health care for American
2 Indians in New Mexico; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
4 delegation be called upon to urge their colleagues in the
5 United States congress to support measures to protect the
6 Indian Health Care Improvement Act; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the president of the United States, the governor
9 and the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.