

1 A MEMORIAL

2 ENCOURAGING REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL  
3 MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES AT ALL LEVELS OF CARE.

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5 WHEREAS, New Mexico faces significant challenges in  
6 access to health care due to its large rural and frontier  
7 areas, with thirty-four percent of the state's two million  
8 one hundred thousand residents living in rural or frontier  
9 counties; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico's geographically sparse and aging  
11 population puts pressure on its health care system, and the  
12 racial and ethnic diversity of the state compared to the  
13 United States poses challenges in providing culturally  
14 sensitive health care; and

15 WHEREAS, there is limited access to health care in  
16 New Mexico, which is related to primary care provider  
17 shortages and lack of awareness of insurance availability,  
18 according to *The State of Health in New Mexico 2018*, issued  
19 by the department of health in April 2018; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico is experiencing a shortage in  
21 primary care and family practice providers; and

22 WHEREAS, as New Mexico goes through a significant  
23 transition in providing health care services, the following  
24 need to be considered:

25 A. coordination of rural health care services,

1 school-based health clinics and private and public sector  
2 hospitals;

3 B. the need for health care providers in larger  
4 communities such as Raton, Clayton and Las Vegas to  
5 collaborate with the many small communities surrounding them;

6 C. coordination and collaboration among health  
7 care providers to include inpatient and outpatient strategies  
8 that are consistent and well coordinated;

9 D. transportation needs of patients in rural areas  
10 to access health care;

11 E. the feasibility of telemedicine and educational  
12 outreach for the more rural health care facilities; and

13 F. other related and important components of  
14 health care delivery to improve the quality of care,  
15 effectiveness, confidence in medical services and  
16 minimization of duplication of efforts; and

17 WHEREAS, faced with the challenges of a shortage of  
18 doctors, nurses and other health care providers, it is  
19 important that the department of health and state health  
20 providers continue to communicate with each other to ensure  
21 proactive preventive health care to keep the populations in  
22 communities of all sizes as healthy as possible; and

23 WHEREAS, increased cooperation among health care  
24 providers will provide the ability to serve patients at all  
25 levels of needed care, from preventive to terminal, with a

1 goal of providing quality health care at every level;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that regional mental and physical health  
4 service providers be encouraged to collaborate to provide  
5 exceptional service at all levels of care; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the secretary of health and the president of  
8 the New Mexico hospital association for distribution.                     

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