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SENATE MEMORIAL 39

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, there is limited access to health care in New
Mexico, which is related to primary care provider shortages and
lack of awareness of insurance availability, according to *The*

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1 *State of Health in New Mexico 2018*, issued by the department of
2 health in April 2018; and

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

5 WHEREAS, as New Mexico goes through a significant
6 transition in providing health care services, the following
7 need to be considered:

8 A. coordination of rural health care services,
9 school-based health clinics and private and public sector
10 hospitals;

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

14 C. coordination and collaboration among health care
15 providers to include inpatient and outpatient strategies that
16 are consistent and well coordinated;

17 D. transportation needs of patients in rural areas
18 to access health care;

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

21 F. other related and important components of health
22 care delivery to improve the quality of care, effectiveness,
23 confidence in medical services and minimization of duplication
24 of efforts; and

25 WHEREAS, faced with the challenges of a shortage of

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1 doctors, nurses and other health care providers, it is
2 important that the department of health and state health
3 providers continue to communicate with each other to ensure
4 proactive preventive health care to keep the populations in
5 communities of all sizes as healthy as possible; and

6 WHEREAS, increased cooperation among health care providers
7 will provide the ability to serve patients at all levels of
8 needed care, from preventive to terminal, with a goal of
9 providing quality health care at every level;

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

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