

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 117

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE CHILDREN, YOUTH
12 AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE
13 CHILDREN'S CABINET TO CREATE THE MEDICAID HOME VISITING PROGRAM
14 ADVISORY COUNCIL TO OVERSEE THE PILOT OF THE CENTENNIAL HOME
15 VISITING PROGRAM AND DEVELOP A PLAN FOR STATEWIDE EXPANSION.

16
17 WHEREAS, early childhood is the most important
18 developmental period in a person's lifetime; and

19 WHEREAS, an infant's brain development is rapid, and the
20 foundation for future success is shaped before children enter
21 kindergarten; and

22 WHEREAS, developing healthy relationships with parents and
23 other caregivers affords children a greater opportunity to
24 develop language, emotional and social skills, as well as
25 preparing them for future learning and success; and

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1 WHEREAS, many parents and young families need the skills
2 and support necessary to foster brain development and improve
3 the skills necessary for child rearing; and

4 WHEREAS, the Annie E. Casey foundation reports that New
5 Mexico ranks fiftieth in the country in overall child
6 well-being, which includes being ranked fiftieth in education;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, children at risk, especially those affected by
9 prenatal health challenges, family trauma or disruption,
10 parental depression or mental illness, poverty, abuse or
11 exposure to violence, need a safety net of early childhood
12 intervention; and

13 WHEREAS, the centennial home visiting pilot program began
14 serving families in counties designated by the human services
15 department on January 1, 2019; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico currently invests in home visiting but
17 could provide these services to more families by leveraging
18 medicaid to capture federal matching funds to cover costs; and

19 WHEREAS, the federal government will pay seven dollars
20 (\$7.00) out of every ten dollars (\$10.00) if home visiting is
21 funded through medicaid; and

22 WHEREAS, the centennial home visiting pilot program
23 affords the state an opportunity to assess the need for more
24 health care workers to facilitate these services and provide
25 more jobs in rural and remote locations; and

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1 WHEREAS, quality home visiting services must include a
2 competent and well-compensated workforce, continuity of care
3 and nurturing environments to support child development; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico currently lacks the workforce and
5 infrastructure to offer such home visiting services to all
6 parts of the state;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
8 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative health and human services
9 committee be requested to explore the viability of expanding
10 medicaid home visiting, including workforce and infrastructure
11 development, and methods to ensure adequate outreach to
12 eligible families; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department,
14 the children, youth and families department, the department of
15 health and the children's cabinet be requested to establish a
16 medicaid home visiting program advisory council to consist of
17 the following representatives:

- 18 A. the secretary of human services or a designee;
19 B. the secretary of children, youth and families or
20 a designee;
21 C. the secretary of health or a designee;
22 D. the director of the children's cabinet;
23 E. at least five home visiting providers, including
24 at least one each from northern, central and southern New
25 Mexico;

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1 F. at least one tribal home visiting expert from a
2 provider in New Mexico; and

3 G. at least one community-based advocacy group
4 working on home visiting and other early childhood issues; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the medicaid home visiting
6 program advisory council's duties shall include:

7 A. monitoring the centennial home visiting pilot
8 program and providing recommendations to strengthen
9 collaboration among home visiting program providers;

10 B. identifying home visiting workforce and
11 infrastructure issues and making recommendations to ensure the
12 growth of home visiting programs throughout the state;

13 C. developing a community-oriented plan that
14 includes outreach strategies to families prenatally or at
15 birth;

16 D. developing a plan that includes strategies to
17 ensure that children and families at the highest risk are
18 targeted and receive appropriate services; and

19 E. providing recommendations to ensure that diverse
20 cultural and linguistic practices in child rearing and family
21 systems are acknowledged, respected and part of the training
22 for home visiting providers; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department,
24 the children, youth and families department, the department of
25 health and the children's cabinet be requested to coordinate

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1 and administer the medicaid home visiting program advisory
2 council; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance
4 committee be requested to perform a program evaluation of the
5 centennial home visiting pilot program and the feasibility of
6 statewide expansion of the program; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the medicaid home visiting
8 advisory council report its findings and recommendations to the
9 legislative health and human services committee, the
10 legislative finance committee and tribal leaders by December 1,
11 2019; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the secretary
14 of children, youth and families, the secretary of health, the
15 director of the children's cabinet and New Mexico's twenty-
16 three Indian nations, tribes and pueblos.