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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

TERRY T. MARQUARDT

FOR THE HEALTH CARE REFORM COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION INITIATIVES, EXPLORE NEW DIRECTIONS THAT WILL REFINE EXISTING PROGRAMS AND ENHANCE THE VALUE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE-FUNDED PROGRAMS FOR THE DELIVERY OF NEEDED HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

WHEREAS, access to adequate numbers of well-trained health professionals is critically important to the state's health care delivery system; and

WHEREAS, thirty-one of New Mexico's thirty-three counties are designated as health professional shortage areas by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, an inappropriate geographic mix or supply of health professionals can increase health costs as well as restrict access to needed services; and

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1 WHEREAS, establishment of state-specific standards for loan
2 service repayment could assure targeting of health professional
3 resources to the areas of greatest need; and

4 WHEREAS, different publicly funded recruitment and
5 retention efforts have resulted in some duplicative
6 administrative functions and variable awards for similar
7 programs; and

8 WHEREAS, consistency in operation, consolidation of like
9 administrative functions and clarity in program purpose would
10 enhance the effectiveness of health professional recruitment and
11 retention efforts; and

12 WHEREAS, local rural communities are the direct
13 beneficiaries of recruitment and retention efforts, and they may
14 provide valuable insights into their unique needs; and

15 WHEREAS, perceived barriers exist that limit the selection
16 of rural areas of New Mexico by health professionals as
17 locations in which to practice, resulting in difficulty in
18 retaining health professionals, particularly for community-based
19 rural health clinics; and

20 WHEREAS, currently most health professionals in New Mexico
21 are trained out of state; and

22 WHEREAS, certain populations, such as the uninsured and
23 medicaid beneficiaries, are particularly vulnerable to lack of
24 available providers in a given geographic area; and

25 WHEREAS, an extensive network of two-year post-secondary

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1 educational institutions currently exists in the state,
2 providing accessible and affordable avenues to more advanced
3 health professional education; and

4 WHEREAS, health professionals who are cross-trained to
5 perform a variety of direct patient care services may provide
6 rural communities with the ability to assure twenty-four hour
7 coverage for these services, improve the efficiency of the
8 delivery system and increase patient satisfaction; and

9 WHEREAS, health professionals who receive training in their
10 own home towns may be more inclined to remain there to practice
11 and would benefit from alternative approaches to receiving
12 health professional education;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy commission
15 work together with the department of health, the university of
16 New Mexico health sciences center and other institutions that
17 train health professionals and the commission on higher
18 education to plan, assess and make recommendations regarding
19 issues of recruitment and retention of health professionals,
20 including the following:

21 A. identification of state-specific standards for
22 loan repayment with service and alignment of recruitment and
23 retention efforts with state goals for the supply and
24 distribution of health professionals;

25 B. the establishment of consistent terms and awards

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1 for similar health professional education programs;

2 C. the consolidation of administrative functions to
3 avoid duplication in health professional recruitment and
4 retention programs;

5 D. the incorporation of local communities and the
6 private sector into policy decisions regarding health
7 professional recruitment and retention efforts;

8 E. an assessment of perceived barriers to retention
9 of health professionals, especially in rural areas; an
10 evaluation of the effectiveness of existing initiatives; and the
11 development of specific strategies to remove barriers;

12 F. a comparison of the potential benefits of
13 recruitment of out-of-state students and state-funded education
14 and training efforts, to assess the cost effectiveness and
15 success of each approach;

16 G. the development of an appropriate mix of
17 incentives in exchange for service in underserved areas of the
18 state to help provide care to medicaid recipients, the uninsured
19 and other underserved populations;

20 H. identification of ways to ease articulation and
21 transfer of credits between institutions, especially between
22 two- and four-year health professional education programs;

23 I. an assessment of the feasibility and
24 effectiveness of cross-training of health professionals to allow
25 performance of a wider scope of services, including effective

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1 training methods and possible changes to individual licensing
2 acts that may be required; and

3 J. consideration of modular or other non-traditional
4 education methods to encourage participation of rural health
5 professional candidates and meet the needs of rural working
6 health professionals; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an interim report of
8 recommendations developed as a result of this cooperative effort
9 be presented to the New Mexico health policy commission and the
10 appropriate interim legislative committee by October 15, 1997
11 and a final report be presented to the New Mexico health policy
12 commission and the appropriate interim legislative committee by
13 October 15, 1998; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be sent
15 to the secretary of health, the vice president of the university
16 of New Mexico health sciences center, the chairman of the New
17 Mexico health policy commission and the executive director of
18 the commission on higher education.

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State of New Mexico House of Representatives

**FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997**

February 21, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

**Your BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE, to whom has
been referred**

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

**has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS, and thence referred to the
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Luna, Chairman

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

HBIC/HJM 17

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 8 For 0 Against

Yes: 8

Excused: Getty, Gubbels, Hobbs, Rodella, Varela

Absent: None

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State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

February 25, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, to
whom has been referred

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Coll, Chairman

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 13 For 0 Against

Yes: 13

Excused: Heaton, Saavedra, Varela, Watchman

Absent: None

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 14, 1997

Mr. President:

Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Robinson, Chairman

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

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**FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997**

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 8 For 0 Against

Yes: 8

No: 0

Excused: Smith

Absent: None

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