

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 12

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER TO COLLABORATE WITH NEW MEXICO MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS TO REVIEW PUBLIC HEALTH OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS FOR NEW MEXICO AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS.

WHEREAS, public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private communities and individuals; and

WHEREAS, a key objective of public health efforts is the prevention of disease and the promotion of healthy behaviors among individuals in society; and

WHEREAS, in order to pursue these objectives, it is

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1 necessary to understand the relationships among health status,
2 individual behavior, health services, social factors and public
3 policies; and

4 WHEREAS, in support of improved health for the nation, the
5 federal government has for three decades developed public
6 health goals known as "healthy people" goals; and

7 WHEREAS, healthy people provides science-based, ten-year
8 national objectives and benchmarks for improving the health of
9 all Americans that are monitored to measure progress over time;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the latest iteration of these goals, healthy
12 people, 2020, is widely available as a template for adoption by
13 state agencies, universities and the private sector; and

14 WHEREAS, pursuit of public health goals and objectives
15 requires collaboration across sectors of the health care system
16 and attention to measurements of results; and

17 WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable
18 Care Act contains funding and provisions in support of states
19 collaborating to pursue public health goals and objectives and
20 to promote awareness of the benefits of healthy behaviors and
21 the importance of prevention; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico has not engaged in a systematic,
23 collaborative approach to promote public health goals and
24 objectives; and

25 WHEREAS, in this era of limited resources and constrained

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1 budgets, the ability of the department of health and the
2 university of New Mexico to adequately fund public health
3 efforts has been severely limited; and

4 WHEREAS, limiting funding for public health initiatives
5 may save money in the short run, but will have long-term,
6 negative impacts as the health of the population of New Mexico
7 suffers; and

8 WHEREAS, creativity, innovation and commitment to
9 improving the health of New Mexico residents over time will be
10 needed by both public and private sector partners; and

11 WHEREAS, the department of health, the university of New
12 Mexico and New Mexico managed care organizations each have
13 distinctly different but vital roles to play in the commitment
14 to ensuring a healthy New Mexico for tomorrow;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health and the
17 university of New Mexico school of medicine, school of nursing
18 and health sciences center be requested to collaborate with New
19 Mexico managed care organizations to review public health
20 objectives and needs for New Mexico; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these entities develop
22 recommendations that will align New Mexico with national goals
23 found in healthy people, 2020; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every opportunity be pursued
25 to obtain funding for public health initiatives through the

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1 federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
3 recommendations that arise from this collaboration be reported
4 to the interim legislative health and human services committee
5 and the legislative finance committee by October 1, 2011; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the secretary of health, the president of the
8 university of New Mexico health sciences center, the deans of
9 the university of New Mexico schools of medicine and nursing
10 and the executive directors of all managed care organizations
11 doing business in New Mexico.