

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 9

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO PRACTICE FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES, NURSE-MIDWIVES AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND THE EFFECT THESE BARRIERS HAVE ON PATIENTS' ACCESS TO CARE AND TO MAKE LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REMOVING THESE BARRIERS.

WHEREAS, the May 15, 2013 department of health and allied agencies' adequacy of New Mexico's health care systems work force report states that New Mexico's health care work force cannot adequately meet the current demand for health care services, let alone meet the expected additional demands for health care services by the newly insured starting in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the report shows that New Mexico's health care work force is poorly distributed throughout the state, resulting in significant disparities in access to care based on

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1 where patients live; and

2 WHEREAS, the report indicates that the state should reduce
3 barriers to work force expansion for all providers; and

4 WHEREAS, the report says that access to primary care
5 services can be enhanced through the expanded use of nurse
6 practitioners and physician assistants; and

7 WHEREAS, the report states that New Mexico has
8 successfully integrated nine hundred seventy nurse
9 practitioners into the state's health care work force because
10 the Nursing Practice Act is expansive enough to allow nurse
11 practitioners to practice independently with the power to
12 prescribe; and

13 WHEREAS, thirty-six percent of all vaginally born babies
14 are delivered by New Mexico's one hundred sixty certified
15 nurse-midwives, making New Mexico number one in the nation for
16 births by nurse-midwives; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico licenses five hundred seventy-seven
18 physician assistants to work under physician supervision; and

19 WHEREAS, the report suggests that New Mexico's health care
20 professional licensing boards conduct a comprehensive review of
21 all health care professional practice acts to judiciously
22 reduce barriers to health care work force expansion;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of health be requested
25 to convene a task force to identify statutory provisions that

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1 create obstacles to the ability of nurse practitioners, nurse-
2 midwives and physician assistants to function at their full
3 scopes of practice; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
5 recommend potential changes in scopes of practice for nurse
6 practitioners, nurse-midwives and physician assistants; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of health invite
8 as members of the task force representatives from the New
9 Mexico nurse practitioner council, the American college of
10 nurse midwives New Mexico chapter, the New Mexico nurses
11 association, the New Mexico medical society, the New Mexico
12 osteopathic medical association, the greater Albuquerque
13 medical association, the New Mexico academy of physician
14 assistants and those other experts the secretary deems
15 appropriate; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
17 council direct the legislative council service to assist the
18 task force in reviewing New Mexico statutes; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its
20 recommendations to the legislative health and human services
21 committee by October 1, 2014; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of health, the president pro
24 tempore of the senate, the speaker of the house of
25 representatives, the chair of the legislative health and human

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1 services committee for the 2014 interim and the director of the
2 legislative council service.

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