

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 125

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Jeff Steinborn

5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A GROUP OF  
12 DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS WITH EXPERTISE IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY,  
13 HEALTH COVERAGE AND HEALTH CARE FINANCE TO DETERMINE THE VALUE  
14 AND FEASIBILITY OF A HEALTH CARE COST, QUALITY AND COORDINATION  
15 COMMISSION IN NEW MEXICO.

16  
17 WHEREAS, according to the United States department of  
18 health and human services, federal health care reforms have  
19 resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of uninsured  
20 residents of New Mexico, with the rate in the state dropping  
21 from twenty percent in 2011 to ten and two-tenths percent in  
22 2016; and

23 WHEREAS, according to a 2015 legislative finance committee  
24 report, the drop in New Mexico's rate of uninsured residents  
25 has resulted in a reduction in hospitals' and other health care

.215027.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 providers' statewide unreimbursed care burden; and

2 WHEREAS, the congressional budget office predicts that  
3 further changes to cost-sharing subsidies on health insurance  
4 exchanges nationwide will result in increases in the federal  
5 budget, which will likely decrease allocations in federal  
6 health care appropriations to states; and

7 WHEREAS, the federal government is signaling states to  
8 take responsibility for managing health care costs, including  
9 ceding greater control over state medicaid programs; and

10 WHEREAS, a 2017 report by the Milbank memorial fund on  
11 state models for health care cost measurement indicates that no  
12 one payer source can influence care or outcomes across the  
13 system; and

14 WHEREAS, the need for a review of many sectors of health  
15 care payers has led six states whose leadership is concerned  
16 with health care costs in their states to create health care  
17 cost commissions or related agencies charged with reviewing  
18 health care costs across state agencies and among private payer  
19 sources; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2015, the department of health and the human  
21 services department received a federal state innovation model  
22 grant; and

23 WHEREAS, after extensive meetings and input from  
24 stakeholder groups throughout New Mexico, the state innovation  
25 model study concluded that the lack of coordination of health

.215027.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 care services was a serious problem; and

2 WHEREAS, the study also concluded that the lack of health  
3 care data was a serious problem, but the funds for the  
4 implementation phase of the state innovation model project were  
5 removed from the federal budget; and

6 WHEREAS, health care costs are consuming an increasing  
7 percentage of the New Mexico state budget, which necessitates  
8 that the state seek ways to manage health care costs without  
9 causing widespread disruption; and

10 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, there is currently no government  
11 agency, commission or other entity charged with reviewing  
12 health care costs across state agencies and among private payer  
13 sources and making recommendations for containing these costs  
14 while maintaining access to high-quality health care for all  
15 New Mexico residents;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
17 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to  
18 convene a group of diverse stakeholders with expertise in  
19 health care delivery, health coverage and health care finance  
20 to develop an assessment of the value to the state in creating  
21 an entity charged with reviewing health care costs across state  
22 agencies and among private payer sources and making  
23 recommendations for containing these costs while maintaining  
24 access to high-quality health care for all New Mexico  
25 residents; and

.215027.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be  
2 requested to report the results of the health care quality and  
3 cost study to the legislative health and human services  
4 committee by October 1, 2019; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the governor, the chair and vice chair of the  
7 legislative health and human services committee, the secretary  
8 of human services, the secretary of health, the superintendent  
9 of insurance and the executive director of the New Mexico  
10 health insurance exchange.