

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

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 14

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

INTRODUCED BY  
Eric G. Griego

A MEMORIAL

CALLING FOR THE SENATE TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE AND CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO NEW MEXICO PROVIDED BY FIRST CHOICE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE,  
INCORPORATED.

WHEREAS, First Choice community healthcare, incorporated,  
is a federally qualified, joint commission-accredited health  
care delivery system that has provided primary medical, dental  
and behavioral health services to underserved and uninsured  
populations of the mid-Rio Grande valley of central Mexico for  
the past forty years; and

WHEREAS, the communities served by First Choice lie within  
a five-county area that is the statistically most populated  
metropolitan area in the state, making First Choice the medical  
home to seven hundred thousand people; and

WHEREAS, First Choice is governed by a community-based,

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

1 volunteer board of directors that reflects the ethnic, racial  
2 and economic diversity of the communities in which First Choice  
3 is located, and more than fifty percent of the board members  
4 are users of First Choice services; and

5 WHEREAS, First Choice operates eight health centers  
6 strategically located in Albuquerque, Los Lunas, Belen and  
7 Edgewood and one school-based health clinic located at Rio  
8 Grande high school in the south valley of Albuquerque; and

9 WHEREAS, First Choice provides primary medical and dental  
10 services, behavioral health care and care management and women,  
11 infant and children program services; and

12 WHEREAS, First Choice serves everyone, regardless of  
13 ability to pay, and all of its health centers provide  
14 discounted patient fees through a sliding fee scale, have  
15 access to federal 340B contract pharmacy services and have  
16 established patient referral patterns to facilitate direct  
17 access to needed specialty care, emergency care and hospital  
18 inpatient services; and

19 WHEREAS, First Choice employs over three hundred thirty  
20 individuals, seventy of whom are licensed providers of health  
21 care, including physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners,  
22 physician assistants, dental hygienists and behaviorists; and

23 WHEREAS, in response to the need to increase access to  
24 primary care services in the mid-Rio Grande valley of central  
25 New Mexico, First Choice has doubled its capacity to serve over

.184530.1

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

1 the last five years; and

2 WHEREAS, in February 2008, the new forty-two-thousand-  
3 square-foot south valley health commons opened, replacing a  
4 thirty-five-year-old structure and allowing First Choice to  
5 triple its capacity to serve at this site; and

6 WHEREAS, in December 2010, First Choice collaborated with  
7 the federal government, the state, Bernalillo county and the  
8 city of Albuquerque to remodel the vacant former state income  
9 support building, and the resulting fifteen-thousand-square-  
10 foot William street structure, which replaces an old five-  
11 thousand-square-foot structure, will allow First Choice to  
12 double its capacity to serve residents of that south Broadway  
13 neighborhood in Albuquerque; and

14 WHEREAS, in October 2010, First Choice received an eight-  
15 million-one-hundred-thousand-dollar (\$8,100,000) grant from the  
16 federal health resources and services administration to  
17 construct and equip a new health center in Valencia county,  
18 which will be completed by August 2012, will replace an aging  
19 four-thousand-five-hundred-square-foot structure in Los Lunas  
20 and will allow First Choice to triple its capacity to serve  
21 residents of Valencia county; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2010, First Choice provided a medical care  
23 home to sixty thousand people who visited more than two hundred  
24 sixty-eight thousand times to receive care in a twelve-month  
25 period, which included medical, dental and women, infant and

.184530.1

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

1 children program encounters; and

2 WHEREAS, First Choice collaborates with the university of  
3 New Mexico hospital, the university of New Mexico health  
4 sciences center, the department of health, county and local  
5 governments, the federal government, other local service  
6 providers and the community to structure innovative models of  
7 care and service delivery that maximize the collective  
8 resources for the betterment of the communities served; and

9 WHEREAS, First Choice has been recognized nationally as a  
10 leader and innovator in primary care health service delivery  
11 "model" development; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2010, First Choice was named community health  
13 center of the year by the membership of the New Mexico primary  
14 care association;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
16 OF NEW MEXICO that the senate recognize the value and  
17 contributions to New Mexico provided by First Choice community  
18 healthcare, incorporated; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the chief executive officer of First Choice  
21 community healthcare, incorporated.