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SENATE MEMORIAL 17

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY
Dede Feldman

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 24, 2012 AS "MEDICAID APPRECIATION DAY" IN
THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, medicaid provides a foundation for New Mexico's
economy, bringing over two billion six hundred million dollars
(\$2,600,000,000) in federal funds each year to New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, medicaid funding sustains more than fifty
thousand jobs in the state, mostly in the private health care
sector; and

WHEREAS, medicaid is a lifeline, providing health care for
one-fourth of New Mexicans, serving more than five hundred
fifty thousand people; and

WHEREAS, medicaid helps reduce private insurance rates by
providing health care coverage to uninsured New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, the majority of medicaid funds come from federal

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1 dollars, making it the most economical way to provide health
2 care to New Mexicans; and

3 WHEREAS, medicaid is the medical insurance used by the
4 most vulnerable members of New Mexico's population, such as
5 low-income children, seniors, people living with disabilities,
6 pregnant women and extremely poor adults; and

7 WHEREAS, all New Mexicans benefit when medicaid provides
8 the means for its participants to stay healthy and lead
9 productive lives; and

10 WHEREAS, each New Mexico county relies upon medicaid to
11 meet its obligation to serve the health care needs of very-low-
12 income residents; and

13 WHEREAS, medicaid is the most cost-effective means by
14 which New Mexico can ensure provision of critical health care
15 to New Mexicans who cannot afford to buy insurance; and

16 WHEREAS, maintaining medicaid services at no cost to
17 recipients best serves the health care needs of those
18 recipients and exhibits great economic wisdom; and

19 WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of New Mexico's voters
20 believe that medicaid is an important health care program and
21 that its services and funding should not be cut; and

22 WHEREAS, the people of the state of New Mexico want and
23 need a medicaid program that is robustly and adequately funded,
24 enrolls all eligible New Mexicans, includes a full range of
25 health care coverage and recognizes that medicaid participants

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1 need and want a program that is fully accessible to them
2 without barriers imposed by provider shortages or economic
3 hardship;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
5 OF NEW MEXICO that January 24, 2012 be recognized as "Medicaid
6 Appreciation Day" in the senate; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives
8 be requested to join the senate in celebrating medicaid
9 appreciation day and support a robust and adequately funded
10 medicaid program; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Governor Martinez and her
12 cabinet be requested to support a medicaid program that
13 preserves all medicaid services with no increased costs for
14 participants and ensures that all eligible New Mexicans are
15 enrolled; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
17 join the senate in funding the medicaid program adequately to
18 ensure its ongoing success; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the governor, the speaker of the house of
21 representatives and the secretary of human services.