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SENATE MEMORIAL 44

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics and Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO ALLIANCE OF HEALTH COUNCILS TO
CONVENE A NEW MEXICO HEALTH COUNCIL SYSTEM TASK FORCE TO
ANALYZE THE WORK OF THE COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS IN
RELATION TO THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PLAN ACT, AS AMENDED
IN 2007, AND TO RECOMMEND STEPS TO STRENGTHEN THE STRUCTURE,
EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH
COUNCILS IN IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF NEW
MEXICO COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's county health councils were
established in 1991 under the auspices of the Maternal and
Child Health Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, the Maternal and Child Health Plan Act was
amended in 2007 to include community health councils in tribal
communities; and

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1 WHEREAS, for twenty-six years, New Mexico's county and
2 tribal health councils have served the state as the hub of
3 public health systems in counties and tribal communities; and

4 WHEREAS, county and tribal health councils have produced
5 community health assessments that identify and document local
6 health needs, resources and conditions; and

7 WHEREAS, county and tribal health councils have produced
8 community health plans that identify local health priorities,
9 goals and strategies; and

10 WHEREAS, county and tribal health councils have developed
11 and implemented policies, programs and services to address
12 critical health needs and to increase access to essential
13 services; and

14 WHEREAS, county and tribal health councils have worked
15 with communities to attract federal, state and private funding
16 to communities to support health programs and services; and

17 WHEREAS, county and tribal health councils continue to
18 provide accurate, up-to-date information on local health needs
19 to state agencies and nonprofit service providers; and

20 WHEREAS, county and tribal health councils have provided
21 planning and coordination of local health services that result
22 in reducing duplication and filling gaps in services; and

23 WHEREAS, the New Mexico alliance of health councils was
24 established as a statewide, nonprofit organization to speak on
25 behalf of New Mexico county and tribal health councils, to

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1 facilitate communication and capacity-building and to develop
2 resources to support and enhance the work of the health
3 councils;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
5 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico alliance of health councils
6 be requested to convene a New Mexico health council system task
7 force to analyze the work of the health councils in relation to
8 the Maternal and Child Health Plan Act, as amended in 2007, and
9 to identify steps to strengthen the structure, effectiveness
10 and sustainability of county and tribal health councils; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico health council
12 system task force be requested to include representatives of
13 key entities involved in New Mexico's public health system,
14 including, at a minimum, representatives of the following
15 entities:

16 A. the department of health and other agencies as
17 the New Mexico alliance of health councils deems appropriate;

18 B. the university of New Mexico health sciences
19 center;

20 C. New Mexico state university;

21 D. the southwest center for health innovation's New
22 Mexico public health institute;

23 E. the New Mexico public health association;

24 F. the New Mexico association of counties;

25 G. private and nonprofit health and social service

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providers;

- H. educational institutions;
- I. philanthropic institutions; and
- J. county and tribal health councils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico health council system task force meet at least quarterly and develop a legislative report to be presented to the legislative health and human services committee and to the appropriate state agencies and nongovernmental entities by October 1, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the chair and vice chair of the legislative health and human services committee, the chair and vice chair of the legislative finance committee, the secretary of health and the executive director of the southwest center for health innovation.