

1 SENATE RESOLUTION 2

2 51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A RESOLUTION

11 EXPRESSING THE SENATE'S LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF
12 THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES TO FAIRLY AND FAITHFULLY
13 EXECUTE THE DUTIES OF THAT OFFICE.

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15 WHEREAS, the governor in January 2011 nominated Sidonie
16 Squier to serve as the secretary of human services subject to
17 the consent of the senate; and

18 WHEREAS, the senate confirmed the nomination on March 2,
19 2011; and

20 WHEREAS, since that time, Secretary Squier's stewardship
21 of the programs that assist New Mexico's most vulnerable
22 residents has been marred by her decision to halt funding to
23 behavioral health care providers serving the vast majority of
24 New Mexicans who receive behavioral health services through
25 medicaid; and

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underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, Secretary Squier's decision to halt the funding
2 was based on unproven allegations of fraud that she has refused
3 to reveal to the accused, the legislature and the public; and

4 WHEREAS, the management consulting firm hired by Secretary
5 Squier to review the billing, accounting and services provided
6 by the behavioral health care providers reported to Secretary
7 Squier that it found no credible allegations of fraud; and

8 WHEREAS, that conclusion was deleted from the report
9 before it was delivered by Secretary Squier's administration to
10 the state auditor; and

11 WHEREAS, Secretary Squier's refusal to restore funding
12 pending the outcome of a thorough and complete investigation
13 has effectively dismantled the state's already fragile
14 behavioral health care system and threatened the well-being of
15 New Mexicans; and

16 WHEREAS, the attorney general's office, which is
17 conducting the investigation, has already announced that there
18 was no evidence to support allegations of fraud in the case of
19 one behavioral health care provider whose funding was
20 suspended; and

21 WHEREAS, the secretary, whose responsibilities also
22 include service on the state's hunger task force and
23 administration of the supplemental nutrition assistance
24 program, expressed her view that there is not now and never has
25 been a problem with hunger in New Mexico; and

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