



The Legislature
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State of New Mexico

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LAWS 2008

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 2

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE DANICE PICRAUX AND REPRESENTATIVE RODOLPHO S. MARTINEZ



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION TO CONVENE
3 A GROUP OF EXPERTS TO PLAN FOR STATE-FUNDED, NATIONALLY
4 ACCREDITED PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCY SLOTS AND ROTATIONS.

5
6 WHEREAS, primary care providers form the backbone of
7 necessary basic and preventive health services in New Mexico;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, during the past five decades, there has been a
10 drastic decrease in the supply of primary care physicians due
11 to the increase in numbers of specialist physicians trained in
12 high-cost, high-technology health care at the expense of
13 health care designed to prevent illness and maintain the
14 health of individuals and communities; and

15 WHEREAS, while there are diminishing numbers of primary
16 care dentists being trained in the United States, there is an
17 increased demand for dentistry in New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, access to preventive and primary health care
19 services is crucial to providing affordable health care and
20 health care accessible to more individuals; and

21 WHEREAS, in most countries where there are universal or
22 national health care systems, there is a recognition of the
23 necessity of keeping health care affordable by maintaining a
24 one-to-one ratio of primary care physicians to specialists;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, in the United States, health care costs are
2 increasing dramatically year by year, in part because the
3 ratio of primary care physicians to specialists is closer to
4 twenty primary care physicians to eighty specialists; and

5 WHEREAS, there is a need in New Mexico for over one
6 hundred fifty primary care physicians, but only around twenty-
7 four primary care physicians are trained in the state every
8 year; and

9 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature and the United
10 States congress have recognized the importance of primary care
11 by passing legislation to provide over one hundred forty
12 primary care locations across New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature and the United
14 States congress have funded policy improvements, such as
15 training programs for nurse practitioners, physician
16 assistants and family physician residencies, in order to
17 improve access to primary care; and

18 WHEREAS, primary care centers such as those funded by
19 the New Mexico legislature and by the United States congress
20 should be staffed whenever possible with high-quality health
21 professionals from the communities they serve; and

22 WHEREAS, more medical students may choose primary care
23 if reimbursement formulas and medical education programs were
24 to be changed to reward and produce more primary care
25 physicians;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
3 health policy commission be requested to convene a task force
4 of experts by June 1, 2008 for the purpose of planning for new
5 or expanded state-funded, nationally accredited primary
6 medical, dental and other residency programs, including
7 rotations in communities where there is a documented
8 underservice and shortage of these services in clinics and
9 hospitals; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
11 to examine other conditions impacting provider training
12 decisions and retention factors and then report its
13 recommendation on how these conditions may improve access to
14 primary medical and dental services; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
16 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and
17 human services committee by September 1, 2008; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the chair of the New Mexico health policy
20 commission.

S/ BEN LUJAN
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ STEPHEN R. ARIAS
STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES