



The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2008

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE MEMORIAL 4

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Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE DANICE PICRAUX

REPRESENTATIVE GAIL CHASEY  
REPRESENTATIVE JIM R. TRUJILLO  
REPRESENTATIVE NATHAN P. COTE  
REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD C. SANDOVAL  
REPRESENTATIVE RICK MIERA  
REPRESENTATIVE MIGUEL P. GARCIA



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ANALYZE THE  
3 MEDICAID RENEW PILOT PROJECT, TO PROVIDE DATA REGARDING CASE  
4 CLOSURES AND REINSTATEMENTS, TO REFRAIN FROM CASE CLOSURES  
5 WITHOUT A FINDING OF INELIGIBILITY, TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS  
6 CAUSING MEDICAID-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO LOSE  
7 COVERAGE AND TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

8  
9 WHEREAS, federal law and regulation require that  
10 medicaid recipients renew their medicaid applications at least  
11 once every twelve months; and

12 WHEREAS, federal law and regulation prohibit a state  
13 from closing a medicaid case unless the state has made a  
14 finding that the family is no longer eligible; and

15 WHEREAS, since May 2004, the numbers of women, children  
16 and low-income families enrolled in medicaid have been highly  
17 unstable and have decreased overall; and

18 WHEREAS, a study by the nonpartisan research company,  
19 Mathematica policy research, incorporated, concluded that  
20 seventy percent of children lose their medicaid coverage every  
21 year; and

22 WHEREAS, continuity of care is important, especially for  
23 children receiving preventive care and developmental  
24 screenings; and

25 WHEREAS, in October 2007, the human services department

1 instituted a statewide pilot project called the "medicaid  
2 renew pilot project", intended to simplify the renewal process  
3 for both the caseworkers and for women, children and low-  
4 income families; and

5 WHEREAS, under the medicaid renew pilot project,  
6 children, women and low-income families who are receiving  
7 medicaid and are not receiving benefits from other programs  
8 may now renew their medicaid coverage without submitting a  
9 signed renewal form and instead may renew their medicaid by  
10 telephone, electronic mail, facsimile or regular mail; and

11 WHEREAS, the human services department has reported an  
12 increase in the number of children enrolled in medicaid since  
13 the implementation of the medicaid renew pilot project; and

14 WHEREAS, the medicaid renew pilot project remains only a  
15 pilot project and has not been permanently adopted by the  
16 human services department, pending an analysis of the success  
17 of the pilot project;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human  
20 services department be requested to conduct an analysis of the  
21 medicaid renew pilot project that demonstrates how successful  
22 the pilot project has been, including the number of women,  
23 children and low-income family medicaid cases that are due to  
24 renew every month, the number of renewal notices issued every  
25 month, the dates that those renewal notices are issued, the

1 number of families that respond every month, the dates that  
2 those families respond, the number of renewal applications  
3 that are processed every month and the number of cases that  
4 are denied or renewed every month; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services  
6 department be requested to provide data showing how many  
7 women, children and low-income family medicaid cases are  
8 closed every month and when, if ever, they are reinstated; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services  
10 department be requested to refrain from terminating any  
11 medicaid case unless and until the human services department  
12 has determined one of the following to be true:

13 A. the participant is no longer financially  
14 eligible;

15 B. the participant has received notification of  
16 requirements for renewal and has failed to meet those  
17 requirements within thirty days of notification; or

18 C. the participant can no longer be reached  
19 through any reasonable measures, including telephone, reverse  
20 postal look-up, re-mailing or checking other applicable state  
21 data systems for a more recent address; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services  
23 department be requested to resolve any problems it uncovers  
24 concerning eligible medicaid recipients experiencing a lapse  
25 or an end to their medicaid coverage; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department be requested to report to the interim legislative health and human services committee and the interim welfare reform oversight committee and to the legislative finance committee on its findings and any corrective action taken in July 2008 and again in November 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of human services and to the governor.

S/ BEN LUJAN  
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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