

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, Second Session

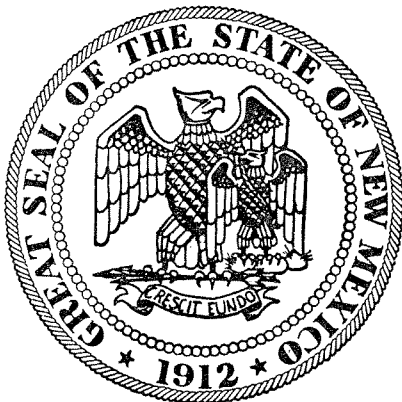
LAWS 2008

CHAPTER _____

SENATE MEMORIAL 10

Introduced by

SENATOR GERALD ORTIZ y PINO
SENATOR DEDE FELDMAN
SENATOR LINDA M. LOPEZ



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
11 least 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
21 every 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
3 process for both the caseworkers and for women, children and
4 low-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 SENATE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be
20 requested to conduct an analysis of the medicaid renew pilot
21 project that demonstrates how successful the pilot project
22 has been, including the number of women, children and
23 low-income family medicaid cases that are due to renew every
24 month, the number of renewal notices issued every month, the
25 dates that those renewal notices are issued, the number of

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

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

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

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

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

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services
24 department be requested to resolve any problems it uncovers
25 concerning eligible medicaid recipients experiencing a lapse

1 or an end to their medicaid coverage; and

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

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

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s/Diane D. Denish
Diane D. Denish, President
Senate

s/Lenore M. Naranjo
Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
Senate

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