A MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY WAYS TO EXPAND
MEDICAID COVERAGE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DENTAL CARE TO
CHILDREN.

WHEREAS, oral health is just as important as physical
and mental health; and
WHEREAS, tooth decay, or cavities, is one of the most
common chronic conditions of childhood in the United States
and New Mexico; and
WHEREAS, the percentage of children and adolescents aged
five to nineteen years with untreated tooth decay is twice as
high for those children and adolescents from low-income
families, indicating that the current oral health care system
does not adequately address their needs; and
WHEREAS, the medical assistance division of the human
services department offers dental health care coverage though
a medicaid program or a waiver;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of oral health of the
department of health be requested to convene a task force to
study ways that medicaid coverage can be expanded to provide
additional dental care to children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
to study:

A. expansion of participation in the dental care provider network accepting medicaid;
B. increasing the number of providers enrolled in medicaid;
C. reimbursement rates to medicaid providers;
D. ways to increase access for medicaid patients;
and
E. ways to drive down the number and cost of medicaid acute dental visits over time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of representatives from the medical assistance division of the human services department, the New Mexico dental association, representatives of the dental health insurance industry, the New Mexico oral health advisory committee, the New Mexico dental hygienists' association, the New Mexico pediatric society, the department of dental medicine at the university of New Mexico, health action New Mexico, the New Mexico oral health coalition and the Indian health service Albuquerque area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its findings and recommendations to the legislative health and human services committee and the legislative finance committee by November 1, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the secretary of health, the director of the medical assistance division of the human services department, the president of the New Mexico dental association, the New Mexico oral health advisory committee, the president of the New Mexico dental hygienists' association, the president of the New Mexico pediatric society, the president of the university of New Mexico, the board president of health action New Mexico, the chair of the New Mexico oral health coalition and the director of the Indian health service Albuquerque area.