

1 A MEMORIAL

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

6
7 WHEREAS, oral health is just as important as physical
8 and mental health; and

9 WHEREAS, tooth decay, or cavities, is one of the most
10 common chronic conditions of childhood in the United States
11 and New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, the percentage of children and adolescents aged
13 five to nineteen years with untreated tooth decay is twice as
14 high for those children and adolescents from low-income
15 families, indicating that the current oral health care system
16 does not adequately address their needs; and

17 WHEREAS, the medical assistance division of the human
18 services department offers dental health care coverage through
19 a medicaid program or a waiver;

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

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested

1 to study:

2 A. expansion of participation in the dental care
3 provider network accepting medicaid;

4 B. increasing the number of providers enrolled in
5 medicaid;

6 C. reimbursement rates to medicaid providers;

7 D. ways to increase access for medicaid patients;

8 and

9 E. ways to drive down the number and cost of
10 medicaid acute dental visits over time; and

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

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

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the secretary of health, the director of the
2 medical assistance division of the human services department,
3 the president of the New Mexico dental association, the
4 New Mexico oral health advisory committee, the president of
5 the New Mexico dental hygienists' association, the president
6 of the New Mexico pediatric society, the president of the
7 university of New Mexico, the board president of health action
8 New Mexico, the chair of the New Mexico oral health coalition
9 and the director of the Indian health service Albuquerque
10 area.

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