

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 13

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO TRACK FUNDING FOR NURSING EDUCATION THROUGH THE NURSING PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT FUND, THE HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULA AND OTHER FUNDING FOR NURSING EDUCATION AND REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE USES AND DISTRIBUTION OF THOSE FUNDS.

WHEREAS, out of fifty states and the District of Columbia, New Mexico ranks fiftieth for the number of nurses per one hundred thousand population; and

WHEREAS, according to the New Mexico center for nursing excellence, New Mexico will need an estimated five thousand more nurses in the work force than were in the work force as of June 2008 in order to meet projected needs; and

WHEREAS, programs to educate nurses in New Mexico have almost doubled their capacity in the last seven years; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico schools offering nursing degree
2 programs were unable to admit two hundred forty qualified
3 applicants for the 2009-2010 academic year, which represents
4 twenty percent of all applicants; and

5 WHEREAS, according to a recent survey and study conducted
6 by the New Mexico center for nursing excellence, between forty-
7 eight and one hundred seventy-one additional full-time-
8 equivalent nursing faculty members are needed to be able to
9 admit all qualified candidates for a nursing degree; and

10 WHEREAS, many barriers exist to the recruitment and
11 retention of nursing faculty members, including faculty
12 compensation that does not compete with practice settings, a
13 weak educational pipeline to develop new faculty, models of
14 education that prohibit collaboration among institutions and a
15 challenging and difficult work environment; and

16 WHEREAS, in January 2009, the higher education department
17 issued the *New Mexico Nursing Program Development Enhancement*
18 *Fund Study*, a report of a study evaluating the effectiveness of
19 the nursing program enhancement fund in meeting the demand for
20 nurses practicing in New Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, the report contained recommendations to increase
22 the capacity of New Mexico educational institutions to educate
23 nurses and to increase the number of nurse faculty members,
24 including encouraging career pathways for master's- and
25 doctoral-level educators to teach in nursing programs and

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1 increases in faculty salaries through multi-level strategies;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the report did not address other sources of
4 revenue for nursing education, including the higher education
5 funding formula; and

6 WHEREAS, the study conducted by the New Mexico center for
7 nursing excellence recommended that nurse educators, supported
8 by the higher education department, develop a statewide plan
9 for nursing education to address the identified barriers and
10 challenges to ensuring an adequate supply of nurses to meet
11 future demand; and

12 WHEREAS, regular reports regarding the distribution of
13 funding to nursing schools to support the development of
14 qualified faculty and the effectiveness of the distribution of
15 such funding would be of value to the legislature in
16 determining the full extent of the need for funding for these
17 purposes;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be
20 requested to track funding for nursing education through the
21 nursing program enhancement fund, the higher education funding
22 formula and other funding for nursing education and report to
23 the legislature on the uses and distribution of those funds;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education

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1 department be requested to cooperate with nurse educators and
2 institutions that educate nurses in the development of a
3 statewide plan for nursing education; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
5 department be requested to report to the interim legislative
6 health and human services committee by November 2010 on its
7 progress toward developing regular reporting mechanisms of the
8 distribution and uses of nursing funds, make recommendations
9 for changes to the current formulas for funding nursing
10 education and report on the development of a statewide plan for
11 nursing education; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the director
14 of the New Mexico center for nursing excellence and the
15 director of the board of nursing.

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