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SENATE MEMORIAL 11

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND STRATEGIES FOR PROVIDING FREE TUITION TO STUDENTS IN GRADUATE-LEVEL PSYCHIATRIC NURSING, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS; REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND STRATEGIES FOR EXPANDING TWO-YEAR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT BRANCH AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is experiencing a statewide shortage of behavioral health care providers; and

WHEREAS, the demand for behavioral health care has significantly increased in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico residents seeking behavioral health care struggle to find providers with availability and face long wait times and limited service options; and

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1 WHEREAS, expanding educational opportunities for students
2 studying to become behavioral health care providers can help to
3 address New Mexico's behavioral health care provider shortage;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
5 OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be requested
6 to conduct a study to identify and recommend strategies for
7 providing free tuition to students in graduate-level
8 psychiatric nursing, psychology, social work and counseling
9 programs; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
11 department be requested to conduct a study to identify and
12 recommend strategies for expanding two-year behavioral health
13 education programs at branch and community colleges; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by July 15, 2024, the higher
15 education department report its findings and recommendations
16 from both studies to the legislative health and human services
17 committee; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of higher education and the
20 legislative health and human services committee.