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SENATE MEMORIAL 8

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND THE NAVAJO NATION COLLABORATIVELY TAKE PROACTIVE STEPS TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 PANDEMIC AS PART OF THE PROPOSED GALLUP INDIAN MEDICAL CENTER.

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives are at greater mortality risk from many health issues and injuries than the rest of the United States population and have mortality rates that are five hundred forty-eight percent greater for alcoholism, two hundred percent greater for death by a motor vehicle, one hundred eighty-two percent greater for diabetes mellitus, one hundred thirty-eight percent greater for unintentional injuries, seventy-five percent greater for

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1 poisoning, seventy-five percent greater for homicide, seventy-  
2 five percent greater for suicide, thirty-seven percent greater  
3 for pneumonia and influenza and twenty-seven percent greater  
4 for firearm injury; and

5 WHEREAS, among American Indians and Alaska Natives, deaths  
6 from accidents, diabetes, suicide and chronic liver disease and  
7 cirrhosis are two to three times higher than among non-Natives;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, compared to other American Indians and Alaska  
10 Natives, Navajos have lower percentages of high school and  
11 college graduates, lower household incomes and a lower  
12 percentage of women receiving prenatal care; and

13 WHEREAS, compared to other American Indians and Alaska  
14 Natives, Navajos have higher rates of unemployment, poverty,  
15 homicide and suicide, unintentional injury-related deaths and  
16 mothers with diabetes; and

17 WHEREAS, the majority of American Indians and Alaska  
18 Natives living in New Mexico reside in McKinley, San Juan and  
19 Bernalillo counties; and

20 WHEREAS, the percentage of births to single women in 2017  
21 was highest for American Indians and Alaska Natives at seventy-  
22 seven and one-half percent, and single-parent births have  
23 increased among American Indians and Alaska Natives by twenty-  
24 four and two-tenths percent since 1990; and

25 WHEREAS, the percentage of preterm deliveries for American

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1 Indian and Alaska Native women in New Mexico increased from  
2 eight and three-tenths percent to ten and one-half percent from  
3 2013 to 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, the birth rate is highest at one hundred twenty-  
5 six and seven-tenths per one thousand women for American Indian  
6 and Alaska Native women aged twenty to twenty-four in New  
7 Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, the death rate is highest for New Mexican  
9 American Indians and Alaska Natives at nine hundred sixty-seven  
10 and four-tenths per one hundred thousand; and

11 WHEREAS, the average adverse childhood experiences score  
12 is estimated at four among American Indians and Alaska Natives;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences have been shown to  
15 have long-lasting effects on many aspects of a person's life as  
16 indicated by health outcomes; and

17 WHEREAS, six hundred sixty-six cases were referred to  
18 child protective services in Shiprock from 2014 to 2017; and

19 WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives died younger  
20 than other racial and ethnic groups in 2017, and nearly one-  
21 half of those who died were between the ages of fifteen and  
22 sixty-four; and

23 WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native death rates  
24 increased from 2014 to 2016; and

25 WHEREAS, from 2007 to 2017, there were two hundred sixty-  
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1 four suicides and one hundred ninety-one homicides among  
2 American Indians and Alaska Natives in McKinley and San Juan  
3 counties; and

4 WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives had the  
5 highest death rates due to accidents and neonatal infant  
6 mortality; and

7 WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives in New Mexico  
8 had the highest death rate for ages one through four and  
9 fifteen through sixty-four; and

10 WHEREAS, infant mortality rates were highest for American  
11 Indian and Alaska Native mothers aged fifteen to nineteen; and

12 WHEREAS, the costs of death and illness are felt by  
13 families and entire communities; and

14 WHEREAS, families and communities are impacted by the loss  
15 of potential years of productivity and contributions to the  
16 economy; and

17 WHEREAS, the increased risk of poor health outcomes and  
18 early death for American Indians and Alaska Natives can lead to  
19 survivor poverty, hardship, chronic illness and early death;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, there are few dedicated resources for women and  
22 children, and those resources are often located at great  
23 distances from those who need them; and

24 WHEREAS, the lack of available resources creates ongoing  
25 trauma for women and children, who often live in very rural and

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1 remote communities; and

2 WHEREAS, despite outreach by some organizations and  
3 professionals, many women and children still do not have access  
4 to resources due to lack of funding or transportation; and

5 WHEREAS, violence against women and children is related to  
6 incidence of family violence, control and restrictions, which  
7 often go unreported or are reported years after the crime  
8 occurred; and

9 WHEREAS, even when health care is sought, women and  
10 children may not be able to attend follow-up appointments that  
11 are necessary for healthy delivery of babies and chronic  
12 disease management; and

13 WHEREAS, facilities and funding for victims of sexual  
14 violence are not available to sustain needed services,  
15 including comprehensive care and mobile facilities with twenty-  
16 four-hour dedicated staff, examiners, advocates and nurses in  
17 addition to Indian health service hospitals and emergency  
18 rooms; and

19 WHEREAS, many health problems and injuries are symptoms of  
20 adverse childhood experiences and resulting trauma that have  
21 been unattended by health, public safety, judicial and other  
22 public service systems; and

23 WHEREAS, according to the Navajo Nation department of  
24 health, there have been twenty-six thousand positive cases of  
25 coronavirus disease 2019 on the Navajo Nation, resulting in

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1 nine hundred fifteen deaths; and

2 WHEREAS, the Gallup Indian medical center contains ninety-  
3 nine beds and has one of the largest workloads in the Indian  
4 health service with over two hundred fifty thousand patient  
5 encounters and five thousand eight hundred inpatient admissions  
6 annually; and

7 WHEREAS, the Gallup Indian medical center has the largest  
8 staff of all Navajo area Indian health service facilities; and

9 WHEREAS, the community of Gallup has seen four thousand  
10 two hundred four positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the need to provide more health care  
13 infrastructure and expand current facilities in Gallup is  
14 greatly needed;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
16 OF NEW MEXICO that the United States, the state of New Mexico  
17 and the Navajo Nation be requested to collaboratively take  
18 proactive steps to provide health care infrastructure and  
19 facilities for women and children and for the treatment of  
20 patients during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic as part  
21 of the proposed Gallup Indian medical center and satellite  
22 clinics, including health centers, updated information  
23 technology database systems for all Indian health service  
24 hospitals and clinics, a database storage facility, health  
25 stations and school clinics in remote locations for access to

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1 mental and physical comprehensive care; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that victims of sexual violence be  
3 provided comprehensive care facilities and mobile units with  
4 sustained funding for twenty-four-hour dedicated staff,  
5 examiners, advocates, counselors and nurses with private  
6 interview environments in addition to Indian health service  
7 hospital inpatient, outpatient and emergency room staff; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the  
10 governor and New Mexico's twenty-three Indian nations, tribes  
11 and pueblos.