



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

49th Legislature, 1st Session

LAWS 2009

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 16

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE GAIL CHASEY

REPRESENTATIVE DANICE PICRAUX



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO COLLABORATE WITH THE
3 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO EXAMINE THE ADEQUACY OF CURRENT
4 PRACTICES FOR ENSURING THE PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF
5 ADOLESCENTS IN NEW MEXICO.

6
7 WHEREAS, during the transition from childhood to
8 adulthood, adolescents may make poor lifestyle choices that
9 lead to unhealthy patterns of behavior that could have a
10 lasting effect on their health and well-being; and

11 WHEREAS, although healthy behaviors, such as eating
12 nutritiously, engaging in physical activity and choosing not
13 to use tobacco, would reduce the incidence of chronic disease
14 in adulthood, adolescents face many factors, including peer
15 pressure, fractured families, school issues and poverty, that
16 challenge their ability to choose such behaviors; and

17 WHEREAS, the national association of county and city
18 health officials is an advocate for the development of an
19 adolescent health platform, including health screenings, age-
20 appropriate immunizations, injury prevention, obesity
21 prevention and mental health screenings, in multiple settings,
22 including school-based health centers; and

23 WHEREAS, the American academy of pediatrics, the
24 advisory committee on immunization practices, the American
25 academy of family physicians and the American medical

1 association all endorse a routine health care visit for
2 adolescents aged eleven to twelve to receive recommended
3 immunizations and other evidence-based preventive health care
4 services; and

5 WHEREAS, the health resources and services
6 administration of the federal health and human services
7 department has developed, in conjunction with the American
8 academy of pediatrics, the *Bright Futures Initiative*, a
9 national health promotion and disease prevention initiative
10 that includes a set of guidelines and recommendations
11 regarding immunizations and routine health screenings for
12 adolescents; and

13 WHEREAS, the advisory committee on immunization
14 practices recommends the use of United States food and drug
15 administration-approved vaccines for pertussis, tetanus,
16 meningitis and human papillomavirus in adolescents, and the
17 federal centers for disease control and prevention has
18 launched a national campaign to raise public awareness
19 regarding adolescent health and immunizations; and

20 WHEREAS, a national immunization survey conducted by the
21 federal centers for disease control and prevention found that
22 immunization coverage levels among adolescents in 2006 did not
23 meet the immunization goals of *Healthy People 2010*; and

24 WHEREAS, parents and parental awareness are very
25 important determinants of adolescents receiving preventive

1 health care services; and

2 WHEREAS, the society for adolescent medicine has found
3 that preventive health care services are among the best tools
4 to ensure continued good health from childhood to adulthood,
5 and adolescents who regularly visit a primary care health care
6 provider are less likely to have emergency room visits and
7 preventable hospitalizations;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
10 of health be requested to collaborate with the public
11 education department to examine the adequacy of current
12 practices for ensuring the preventive health and well-being of
13 adolescents in New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health and
15 the public education department explore avenues to promote
16 immunizations and preventive health care for adolescents,
17 including application of the guidelines developed by the
18 health resources and services administration of the federal
19 health and human services department and the public awareness
20 campaign developed by the federal centers for disease control
21 and prevention; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of health and the secretary of
24 public education.

S/ BEN LUJAN
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ STEPHEN R. ARIAS
STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES