

SANTA FE COUNTY

Resolution No. 2008 -/

RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS THE HEALTH SECURITY ACT

WHEREAS, the health insurance crisis in New Mexico is growing worse as evidenced by the fact that almost one out of four New Mexicans is uninsured including many residents of Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, premiums are escalating at double digit rates, co-pays are increasing and pharmaceutical drug costs are rising; and

WHEREAS, rising health care costs and the lack of health insurance coverage for so many New Mexicans result in a social and economic burden for the affected families, employers, health care providers, the County of Santa Fe and the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, decreasing the percentage of county and state expenditures on health care will free up funds to be spent in other sectors such as economic development, education, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Health Security Act offers a comprehensive solution enabling New Mexico to set up its own health care plan that would guarantee that all New Mexicans - regardless of age, employment or health status - will have comprehensive, affordable and quality health coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Health Security Act, by pooling most New Mexicans into one health risk pool, would substantially contain costs, reduce administrative complexity, and eliminate uncompensated care; and

WHEREAS, the Health Security Act would further allow for bulk purchasing of drugs, provide for the protection of retiree benefits, and would be able to reap the benefits of economies of scale; and

WHEREAS, studies show, including two conducted in New Mexico (one by the Lewin Group in 1994 and a recent one by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.), that combining all or most New Mexicans into one health risk pool would substantially control health care costs, reduce administrative complexity and eliminate uncompensated care; and

A Resolution Urging the Legislature to Pass the Health Security Act

WHEREAS, over 130 diverse New Mexico organizations and 27 cities and counties endorse the Health Security Act; and

WHEREAS, the interim health and human services committee in its November 2007 final report to the Legislative Finance Committee noted that when they held hearings around the state they had a tremendous amount of public input - most of it from proponents of the Health Security Act; and

WHEREAS, the Health Security Act has widespread public support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County supports and endorses the Health Security Act; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County will work to ensure passage of a health security act that will preserve federal funding and not result in a diminution of services to New Mexicans, and will urge the New Mexico Association of Counties to make such a health security act a legislative priority.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 8th DAY OF JANUARY, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS3


 Jack Sullivan, Chairman

ATTEST:


 Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


 Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
 STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
 Record On The 31ST Day Of January, A D., 2008 at 14:36
 And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1513994
 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
 Deputy  Valerie Espinoza
 County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM