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For Immediate Release

Electronic Medical Records Act Passes House

Legislation Part of Governor's HealthSOLUTIONS New Mexico Plan

Santa Fe, New Mexico – Today the House of Representatives approved House Judiciary Committee Substitute for House Bill 37, the Electronic Medical Records Act, which is a companion bill to the Governor Richardson's HealthSOLUTIONS Act.

The Electronic Medical Records Act, sponsored by Representative Peter Wirth will help control costs in health care and increase quality by implementing a plan to maintain, use and protect electronic medical records.

The second bill, Committee Substitute for House Bill 62, The HealthSOLUTIONS Act, sponsored by Rep. John Heaton is scheduled before the House Judiciary this afternoon.

HB 62 in its original form covers the other three components of the Governor's universal health care plan.

- Insurance Reform to make coverage more affordable and accessible.
- Coverage Mechanisms and Participation to assure everyone has coverage.
- Health Coverage Authority to reduce bureaucracy and create a single point of accountability.

Rep. Heaton will offer amendments in today's House Judiciary Committee to restore the critical components of the Governor's plan that had been taken out during the House Health and Government Affairs Committee substitute bill, including:

- Adds back the requirement for individuals to show proof of coverage with some changes from the original bill,
- Adds back employers contribution to the Healthy New Mexico Workforce Fund with several new exemptions and deferrals,
- Adds definitions of what counts as "direct services" by insurance carriers, and
- Returns to appointment of the Executive Director by the Governor, in keeping with the New Mexico Constitution.

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