



Agenda Item Number: 2009-6-8D

BERNALILLO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: June 23, 2009

Department: County Manager Staff Contact: Julie M. Baca, DCM for Community Services
Leigh Mason, Coordinator
Bernalillo County Community Health Council

TITLE: A Resolution urging immediate passage of comprehensive Federal health reform legislation

ACTION: Motion to approve AR -2009 urging immediate passage of comprehensive Federal health reform legislation.

SUMMARY:

The National Association of Counties (NACo) appointed a Health System Reform Working Group which held three regional hearings to explore the health crisis and to hear what county officials believe should be done about the crisis and has summarized its findings.

As the debate in Washington, D.C. over how to fix America health system reaches a critical stage, Congressional committees are rolling out draft legislation as early as next week and leaders are planning to have votes by the end of July. NACo has been preparing for this debate. Under the leadership of President Elect Valerie Brown, NACo's Health System Reform Working Group has summarized its conclusions in *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System* which was approved by the Health Steering Committee and Board of Directors at the Legislative Conference in March. NACo has shared these principles with officials in the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services as well as with each member of the House and Senate.

NACo is also recommending that its member counties also take action to support the right kind of health reform. Approval of this Resolution will demonstrate the Board's support for passage of health reform this year to restore the partnership between counties and the federal government. Upon approval, staff will forward copies of the Resolution the Congressional Delegation, the White House and to NACo.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Administrative Resolution AR -2009
2. NACo Health System Reform Working Group summary of findings: *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in the 21st Century Health System*

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

STAFF ANALYSIS SUMMARY

COUNTY MANAGER

See Summary. I recommend Board approval. TL 6/15/09

DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

I recommend approval as this resolution recognizes the high uninsured rate in Bernalillo County and the inequity of coverage for those families with low incomes. NACo's report, *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in the 21st Century Health System*, describes the role of local governments in impacting such important factors to health as the built environment, public health infrastructure, prevention, and providing indigent care. In addition, the report is in line with the goals of the Bernalillo County Community Health Council, Community Health Improvement Plan; a plan that was developed with expertise from the community and recognizes the need for a health system that focuses on prevention and provides care for all people. JMB 6/17/09

DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER FOR FINANCE

Bernalillo County spends upwards of \$115 million on health care related costs and should support discussions around reforming health care. I recommend Board approval. DJM 6/17/09

LEGAL

Approved as to form. JSL 6/16/09