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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Monica Youngblood and John C. Ryan

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER FORM A BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY TASK FORCE TO STUDY HOW TO BEST PROMOTE, ATTRACT, SUPPORT, STIMULATE AND SUSTAIN THE BIOSCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IN NEW MEXICO, AND TO PRESENT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEES.

WHEREAS, the United States is increasingly faced with global competition and the issue of maintaining its economic dominance; and

WHEREAS, a nation that depends on others for its new basic science knowledge will be slow in its industrial progress and weak in its competitive position in world trade; and

WHEREAS, scientific progress is key to the security of the nation, better health, more jobs, a higher standard of living

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1 and cultural progress; and

2 WHEREAS, the goal of technology policy is to make the best  
3 use of technology in achieving the goal of improved quality of  
4 life for all; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico possesses the talent and knowledge  
6 base for scientific progress and the development of new  
7 biotechnologies; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico has been at the forefront of  
9 bioscience and biotechnology endeavors for decades and seeks to  
10 realize its potential to become a vibrant and internationally  
11 recognized bioscience cluster; and

12 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico health sciences  
13 center has received designation as a national institutes of  
14 health clinical and translational science center; and

15 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico health sciences  
16 center, with its research laboratories and in conjunction with  
17 private companies, continues to catalyze innovation and  
18 technology commercialization in bioscience and biotechnology;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico health sciences  
21 center produces an educated work force for the state of New  
22 Mexico that supports the biosciences and biotechnology  
23 industry; and

24 WHEREAS, since 2004, thirty-eight new biotechnology  
25 companies have been associated with the university of New

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1 Mexico in the companies' start-up or within the course of the  
2 companies' development; and

3 WHEREAS, if New Mexico can keep the production in the  
4 state, then the biotechnology industry is a strategic  
5 enterprise sector that can be extremely significant and vital  
6 to the state's economic strategy and well-being by creating  
7 high-paying jobs and bolstering the state's economy; and

8 WHEREAS, governmental involvement, such as involvement of  
9 the state's legislature, is necessary to support technology  
10 policy, to prevent underinvestment in research and development  
11 and to support financial incentives and legislation for  
12 biotechnology industries in New Mexico;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the economic development department  
15 request the university of New Mexico health sciences center to  
16 convene a biotechnology industry task force to study ways to  
17 help promote, attract, support and sustain the biotechnology  
18 industry in New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico  
20 health sciences center biotechnology industry task force shall  
21 be composed of representatives from the university of New  
22 Mexico health sciences center and that at least fifty percent  
23 of the task force be composed of individuals from the private  
24 sector who have experience and knowledge regarding the  
25 biotechnology industry; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico  
2 health sciences center biotechnology industry task force be  
3 requested to:

4 A. study and analyze optimal ways to effectively  
5 stimulate the growth of biotechnology business ventures in New  
6 Mexico;

7 B. study and analyze how to attract to the state  
8 and retain biotechnology talent and companies in New Mexico by  
9 recruiting management and training a work force;

10 C. study and analyze how to promote and leverage  
11 the current biotechnology industries in New Mexico to encourage  
12 additional sector industry growth;

13 D. study and analyze how developing a larger  
14 biotechnology industry in the state can help contribute to the  
15 state's economy via the creation of high-paying jobs, wealth  
16 creation and building additional infrastructure;

17 E. identify optimal tax incentives, credits and  
18 financing packages targeted to encourage biotechnology  
19 companies to start up and to stay in New Mexico, and to attract  
20 outside biotechnology companies to set up in New Mexico;

21 F. examine whether legislation can be proposed to  
22 enhance and support the biotechnology industry in New Mexico  
23 and to attract other biotechnology companies to New Mexico;

24 G. examine the feasibility of establishing a  
25 development training program that focuses on skills unique to

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1 the biotechnology industry to furnish qualified management and  
2 training work force resources to help expand and sustain the  
3 industry in New Mexico;

4 H. examine how partnering with other educational  
5 institutions and technical and vocational schools, such as  
6 central New Mexico community college, in the development  
7 training program initiative to produce the biotechnology  
8 industry work force infrastructure would provide careers and  
9 stable jobs;

10 I. develop ideas on how the biotechnology industry  
11 can leverage New Mexico's green initiatives;

12 J. determine whether any public agencies should be  
13 created to enhance the growth of biotechnology industries in  
14 New Mexico;

15 K. assess how to capitalize on the already existing  
16 relevant research and studies at the university of New Mexico  
17 to foster the development of new biotechnology companies in New  
18 Mexico; and

19 L. utilize bioscience cluster measurement criteria  
20 as a tool to assess New Mexico's position in the biotechnology  
21 industry with respect to identifying the state's strengths,  
22 focusing on how to improve the state's weaknesses, capitalizing  
23 on the state's opportunities and becoming aware of threats to  
24 the state. Use of this tool includes an examination of how New  
25 Mexico compares to other states, and to the nation, where

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1 relevant, with respect to:

- 2 (1) the number of public and private life  
3 sciences companies;
- 4 (2) the number of persons employed by life  
5 sciences companies;
- 6 (3) the number of research and development  
7 dollars spent at public life sciences companies;
- 8 (4) the number of patents issued per capita;
- 9 (5) public life sciences company revenue and  
10 profits;
- 11 (6) funding received from the national  
12 institutes of health;
- 13 (7) the number of life sciences company start-  
14 ups formed each year;
- 15 (8) venture capital investments made or  
16 allocated as early-stage or seed investments; and
- 17 (9) the various biotechnology industry  
18 employer bases, including nonprofit research centers, start-  
19 ups, small public companies and large public companies; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico  
21 health sciences center biotechnology industry task force report  
22 its findings and recommendations to the appropriate legislative  
23 interim committees that study science, technology and economic  
24 development issues; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the secretary of economic development.

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