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SENATE MEMORIAL 20

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A STATEWIDE
YOUTH VIOLENCE SUMMIT AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE
APPROACH TO MITIGATE YOUTH VIOLENCE AND ESTABLISH COMMUNITY-
BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION STRATEGIES.

WHEREAS, youth violence is a significant concern for New
Mexico policymakers, communities, youth, families and the
general public, but New Mexico lacks a unified statewide vision
to address the root causes and risk factors of these issues;
and

WHEREAS, few, if any, targeted resources are allocated for
research-based youth violence prevention or intervention
services across the state, such as credible messengers, peer
supports, restorative justice or violence interrupters, and
these services do not exist at the scale needed; and

1 WHEREAS, current funding programs for youth who are
2 involved or at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice
3 system in New Mexico are not prioritized for the highest-risk
4 youth or youth engaged in violence; and

5 WHEREAS, data collection, tracking and reporting around
6 youth violence is limited and could be strengthened to better
7 understand the scope and scale of these challenges and the
8 needs of communities; and

9 WHEREAS, there is misalignment across state and local
10 stakeholders around how to best address youth violence
11 challenges in the state;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
13 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to
14 convene a statewide youth violence summit to develop a
15 comprehensive statewide approach to mitigate youth violence,
16 strengthen public safety and improve youth and community
17 outcomes and to develop a strategy to expand research-based
18 community violence prevention and intervention services; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
20 requested to create a planning group consisting of the
21 following members to advise the department on the agenda and
22 other details of the youth violence summit:

23 A. representatives of the department of health, the
24 children, youth and families department, the health care
25 authority, the public education department, the administrative

1 office of the district attorneys and the chief public defender;
2 and

3 B. members appointed by the secretary of health to
4 represent state and local law enforcement agencies, the
5 children's court, community-based organizations that focus on
6 helping troubled youth and youth and families who have lived
7 experience with the juvenile justice system; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health and
9 the planning group be requested to develop the agenda to
10 include speakers and facilitators from New Mexico, other states
11 that have successful youth violence mitigation strategies and
12 national experts; educational and problem-solving panels; and
13 plenary sessions and to advertise the youth violence summit as
14 a public event; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the youth
16 violence summit include:

17 A. disseminating research and best practices on
18 youth violence prevention and intervention;

19 B. disseminating state and local as well as other
20 states' examples of successful programs;

21 C. understanding current data trends in youth
22 violence across New Mexico and the needs of communities;

23 D. identifying promising approaches and gaps in
24 youth violence prevention and intervention strategies in New
25 Mexico;

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1 E. developing recommendations for a statewide
2 vision for youth violence prevention and intervention that
3 centers the voices of youth, families and communities,
4 including recommendations related to needed investments in
5 research-based community violence programs;

6 F. developing strategies for scaling promising
7 approaches in the state;

8 G. strengthening data collection and reporting;

9 H. providing technical assistance and training and
10 additional support to localities and community stakeholders;
11 and

12 I. developing a vision and plan for a statewide
13 office to oversee and support efforts to mitigate youth
14 violence; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
16 requested to write a final report detailing the findings and
17 recommendations of the youth violence summit, including
18 recommendations for investments and proposed legislation to
19 implement a comprehensive statewide approach to mitigate youth
20 violence that includes tested and innovative community-based
21 violence intervention strategies; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
23 requested to present findings and recommendations from the
24 summit to the appropriate legislative interim committees by
25 November 1, 2026; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the governor, the department of health, the
3 health care authority, the children, youth and families
4 department, the public education department, the administrative
5 office of the district attorneys for distribution to district
6 attorneys, the chief public defender and the administrative
7 office of the courts for dissemination to children's court
8 judges.

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