

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 59

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madalena

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WORK WITH THE SOUTHERN PUEBLOS COUNCIL TO EXPEDITE SERVICES AND TO OVERCOME THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DIVISION'S BARRIERS TO SERVICE.

WHEREAS, the southern pueblos council is comprised of the nine southern New Mexico Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Sandia, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo and Zia and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian vocational rehabilitation program of new vistas provides a liaison between Native American citizens residing on tribal lands and the public education department's vocational rehabilitation division; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the American Indian vocational rehabilitation program is to provide services to the members of nineteen pueblos and two Apache nations, a goal consistent with

.150334.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 the vocational rehabilitation division's purpose, which is to
2 help people with disabilities to achieve suitable employment
3 outcomes; and

4 WHEREAS, the American Indian vocational rehabilitation
5 program assists the vocational rehabilitation division in
6 identifying needs, making referrals and coordinating services
7 for tribal members with disabilities; and

8 WHEREAS, eight of the ten southern pueblos are served by
9 four different vocational rehabilitation division area offices
10 in Albuquerque; and

11 WHEREAS, according to the 2000 United States census,
12 approximately twenty-seven percent of the population of the ten
13 pueblos aged twenty-one to sixty-four have disabilities, and
14 the unemployment rates of the ten pueblos range between thirty
15 percent and seventy percent; and

16 WHEREAS, under the current vocational rehabilitation
17 division area service plan, major barriers exist in the
18 delivery of consistent, easily accessible, individualized and
19 uniform services, including a lack of understanding and
20 recognition of the unique cultural differences between tribal
21 members;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health and the of
24 vocational rehabilitation division of the public education
25 department be requested to study ways to provide a more

.150334.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 consistent and streamlined approach to servicing tribal members
2 and to improve coordination and communication by recognizing
3 the unique social, economic and cultural situations of tribal
4 members; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health and
6 the vocational rehabilitation division be requested to study
7 the feasibility of providing services to the southern pueblos
8 council member tribes serviced by the Albuquerque offices
9 through one centralized office location with one vocational
10 counselor; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health and
12 the vocational rehabilitation division be requested to report
13 their findings to the interim legislative Indian affairs
14 committee before November 1, 2004; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the department of health, the vocational
17 rehabilitation division of the public education department, the
18 southern pueblos council and the governor.

19 - 3 -
20
21
22
23
24
25