1   HOUSE BILL 528

2   **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3   INTRODUCED BY

4   Mimi Stewart

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8   FOR THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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10   AN ACT

11   RELATING TO CORRECTIONS; CREATING THE OPIATE REPLACEMENT

12   THERAPY FOR INMATES PILOT PROJECT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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14   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

15   Section 1. OPIATE REPLACEMENT THERAPY FOR INMATES PILOT

16   PROJECT.--

17   A.   The "opiate replacement therapy for inmates

18   pilot project" is created as a two-year study that provides

19   opiate replacement treatment, utilizing buprenorphine/naloxone,

20   to fifty women with a history of heroin or other opiate

21   addiction who are incarcerated at and are to be released on

22   parole from the New Mexico women's correctional facility in

23   Grants and the Camino Nuevo correctional center. The project

24   shall include standard therapeutic community and addiction

25   counseling.

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1   B. Opiate replacement therapy shall be administered

2 to fifty women with a history of heroin or other opiate

3 addiction who:

4   (1) are within three months of release;

5   (2) will be monitored on parole or probation

6 for at least one year following release;

7   (3) are not pregnant; and

8   (4) after being fully informed of

9 buprenorphine/naloxone and its effects and of the requirements

10 and procedures for participation in the project, agree to

11 participate in the opiate replacement therapy for inmates pilot

12 project for two years.

13   C. Priority shall be given to those women who are

14 closest to being released from incarceration and to those

15 planning to parole to a community within sixty miles of a

16 physician certified to prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone

17 therapy.

18   D. Opiate replacement therapy with

19 buprenorphine/naloxone shall be made available to each

20 participant in the pilot project for two years. The impact of

21 the project on all participants shall be evaluated for two

22 years.

23   E. The corrections department shall collaborate

24 with the department of health to administer and evaluate the

25 opiate replacement therapy for inmates pilot project and to

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1   contract for the services of buprenorphine/naloxone-certified

2   physicians and case managers to evaluate and treat the women

3   participants.

4   F.   The corrections department in collaboration with

5   the department of health shall evaluate the success of women

6   who participate in the pilot project as compared to women with

7   a history of opiate dependence who are not treated with

8   buprenorphine/naloxone. The evaluation shall include findings

9   about:

10   (1)   recidivism, relapse and cost savings;

11   (2)   the amount of psychotropic medication

12   used;

13   (3)   the number of opiate-positive drug

14   screens;

15   (4)   the rate and frequency of infection, self-

16   inflicted injury and need for medical care; and

17   (5)   the changes in physical and mental health

18   status, employment status, parenting and other quality of life

19   indicators during the project period.

20   G.   The corrections department and department of

21   health shall each report independently to the appropriate

22   interim legislative committee on the evaluations, treatments

23   and outcomes of the pilot project participants by December 1,

24   2008 and again by December 1, 2009.

25   H.   The pilot project shall run from July 1, 2007

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through June 30, 2009.

Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the corrections department for expenditure in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for the opiate replacement therapy for inmates pilot project. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

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