## 1 A JOINT MEMORIAL 2 REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT CREATE A TASK 3 FORCE TO STUDY THE CONDITION OF PRISONERS IN THE NEW MEXICO PRISON SYSTEM AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. 4 5 WHEREAS, millions of tax dollars are spent annually on 6 imprisoning criminals while recidivism rates remain high; and 7 WHEREAS, at least one-half of all convicts are 8 incarcerated for nonviolent crimes; and 9 WHEREAS, prison environments are often overcrowded, 10 creating health hazards and facilitating the spread of 11 disease; and 12 WHEREAS, violence is prevalent in many prisons, and many 13 prisoners commit suicide; and 14 15 WHEREAS, most prisoners are under the age of 16 thirty-five, and many are women and young adults; and WHEREAS, the cost of incarceration in New Mexico is at 17 least ten times the cost of probation or parole; and 18 WHEREAS, effective programs and support structures can 19 20 directly address recidivism and significantly reduce corrections costs; and 21 WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of Hispanic, Native 22 American and African American persons are incarcerated; 23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE 24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections department be 25

requested to convene a task force to study the condition of and human services departments; and committee by the fall of 2009; and education, higher education and human services.\_\_\_\_\_ 

prisoners in New Mexico prisons and make recommendations for improvements, enlisting participation in the task force from the workforce solutions, public education, higher education BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretaries of workforce solutions, public

SJM 70 Page 2