

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 55

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane M. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A TASK
FORCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARGED WITH
DECREASING THE NUMBERS AND SEVERITY OF CHILD ABUSE AND DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE INCIDENTS, SAVING LIVES AND SAVING FAMILIES IN THIS
STATE, WHERE CHILD ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARE SO
PREVALENT.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a state with an ancient and modern
history of child abuse and domestic violence as commonplace;
and

WHEREAS, statistics are all but impossible to gather on
the local costs and emotional and psychological impact of child
abuse and domestic violence on those who suffer, survive and
sometimes model the violence, leading to the perpetuation of
child abuse and domestic violence into yet another generation;

.182181.1

1 and

2 WHEREAS, the increasingly common tragedy of killing of
3 children is in the news; and

4 WHEREAS, domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of
5 abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one
6 partner to gain or maintain power and control over another
7 intimate partner or child; and

8 WHEREAS, domestic violence can be physical, sexual,
9 emotional, economic or psychological, including threats of
10 actions that influence another person such as behaviors that
11 intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten,
12 terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure or wound
13 someone; and

14 WHEREAS, violent physical abuse in New Mexico of late has
15 included murder and maiming of children as well as bruising and
16 battering of adults who were once trusted allies of the
17 perpetrator; and

18 WHEREAS, often perpetrators of domestic violence were
19 victims of domestic violence when they were too young, too weak
20 or too disempowered to confront a perpetrator of domestic
21 violence against themselves; and

22 WHEREAS, the pattern established as domestic violence
23 victims become perpetrators against others, who then become
24 victims who are more likely to become perpetrators, is both
25 tragic and destructive to health; and

.182181.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, the loss of lives of innocent children in
2 domestic violence incidents is intolerable; and

3 WHEREAS, the cycles of domestic violence and child abuse
4 spell not only lost lives from murder but also lost promise
5 from those who become addicts in order to wipe away the
6 memories of suffering the violence; and

7 WHEREAS, the loss to the community from domestic violence
8 and especially child deaths can include the financial costs of
9 treating victims and trying to prevent future violence as well
10 as the emotional costs of loss of lives and loss of trust and
11 innocence; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico has been trying to cut the incidents
13 of violence and minimize the attendant loss of financial,
14 physical and psychological damage caused by domestic violence
15 but has not been successful; and

16 WHEREAS, it is absolutely necessary to stop the cycle of
17 domestic violence and child abuse in a way that will reorient
18 the perpetrator to the tragedy of the perpetrator's own
19 experience and the tragedy of the harm the perpetrator has
20 caused, to empower the victim to overcome the shock and loss of
21 trust and confidence that results from discovering that a loved
22 one means to dominate and injure the victim and to help
23 individuals and families rebuild lives after the havoc wreaked
24 on health, employment, education and psychological well-being
25 after the domestic violence subsides; and

.182181.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, other states and countries have discovered some
2 success in decreasing the impact of domestic violence by
3 intensive intervention with a domestic violence perpetrator
4 immediately upon arrest; and

5 WHEREAS, both legal and social work can be used to slow or
6 erase the tendency to reoffend; and

7 WHEREAS, such remedies may require sizeable use of
8 taxpayer dollars but are likely to save the state money over
9 time;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be urged
12 to dedicate itself to focusing on means of solving the domestic
13 violence and child abuse crisis in New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
15 council be urged to appoint a task force on stopping the
16 violence that is the scourge of so many New Mexico homes; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force focus on
18 preventing child abuse; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include staff
20 from the children, youth and families department, the
21 department of health, law enforcement, hospital or emergency
22 room staff with experience in trauma treatment, a psychologist
23 and a social worker as well as the governor's staff working on
24 domestic violence issues; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report to the

.182181.1

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

1 New Mexico legislative council by October 2010 on its
2 recommendations for structures to put in place to minimize,
3 stop and prevent domestic violence incidents and their impact;
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
7 council, the governor, the state's major hospitals and the
8 secretaries of health and children, youth and families.