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HOUSE MEMORIAL 52

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Gail Chasey

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE TASK FORCE FORMED TO STUDY AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS ON THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO SEXUALLY EXPLOITED MINORS AND ON THE EFFECTS OF A SAFE HARBOR LAW ON THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES.

WHEREAS, a task force was formed in 2014 to study the delivery of services to sexually exploited children in New Mexico and the effects that passage of a "safe harbor" law might have on the delivery of those services and programs for sexually exploited children; and

WHEREAS, safe harbor laws have been developed by states to address the inconsistencies on how children who are exploited for commercial sex or labor are treated; and

WHEREAS, safe harbor laws regarding human trafficking and prostitution may prevent child victims of sex trafficking from

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1 being prosecuted for prostitution and can protect child victims  
2 of sex trafficking from further exploitation by providing them  
3 with services; and

4 WHEREAS, the task force, consisting of representatives of  
5 service providers, including the lifelink and enlace  
6 communitario, representatives of advocates, including the New  
7 Mexico coalition of sexual assault programs, incorporated, the  
8 New Mexico women's agenda, Santa Fe safe and New Mexico voices  
9 for children, and representatives of the office of the attorney  
10 general, the children, youth and families department and other  
11 interested organizations and groups, has been meeting for six  
12 months to collect information about safe harbor programs, laws  
13 in other states and services for trafficking victims in New  
14 Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2014, the task force presented a preliminary  
16 report to the legislative health and human services committee  
17 and the courts, corrections and justice committee; and

18 WHEREAS, task force members are encouraged by the progress  
19 they have made and believe that it would be beneficial to  
20 continue to meet during the 2015 interim to further engage the  
21 voices and opinions of former victims, as well as  
22 representatives of the judiciary; and

23 WHEREAS, the task force has identified the need for more  
24 education of the public and of law enforcement, provided by  
25 criminal justice professionals, on recognizing sexual

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1 exploitation of children in New Mexico; recognizing children  
2 who might be presented as adults; and on up-to-date information  
3 about services and available shelters;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the task force  
6 created in 2014 to study the delivery of services to sexually  
7 exploited children in New Mexico be requested to continue to  
8 meet during the 2015 interim; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
10 obtain reports and collect data from local and regional  
11 entities regarding arrests, referrals for treatment and other  
12 indicators available on the incidence of sexually exploited  
13 children; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
15 obtain recommendations and analyses from local and regional  
16 entities that deal with children, as well as obtain  
17 recommendations from the judiciary regarding ways to prevent  
18 sexually exploited children from entering the juvenile justice  
19 system; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
21 obtain information and recommendations from former victims of  
22 sexual exploitation and others who have dealt with sexually  
23 exploited youth; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
25 develop recommendations for any changes in laws and delivery of

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1 services to sexually exploited children that task force members  
2 believe would improve children's future in New Mexico; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
4 prepare a report of the data collected and provide  
5 recommendations to the legislative health and human services  
6 committee and to the appropriate interim committee for courts  
7 and corrections issues no later than November 2015; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the task force's  
9 report be made available to the public; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the chair of the legislative health and human  
12 services committee, the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
13 council and the New Mexico women's agenda for distribution to  
14 the organizations participating in the task force.