

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 104

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION  
12 AND PAIN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO  
13 STUDY THE RISK FACTORS FOR, IMPACT OF AND WAYS TO PREVENT  
14 DEATHS DUE TO OPIOID ABUSE, MISUSE AND DEPENDENCE IN NEW  
15 MEXICO; REQUESTING THE STATE MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR TO PROVIDE TO  
16 THE TASK FORCE DATA ON OPIOID OVERDOSES.

17  
18 WHEREAS, the use and misuse of prescription pain drugs,  
19 such as opioids, have become an increasing problem in New  
20 Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, over one hundred million adults in the United  
22 States suffer from chronic pain, including debilitating  
23 conditions such as arthritis, fibromyalgia and lower back pain;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, many individuals who live with chronic pain are

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1 prescribed opioid medications to manage their pain; and

2 WHEREAS, many people who take opioids to manage their pain  
3 are able to do so in compliance with their prescriptions  
4 without becoming dependent; and

5 WHEREAS, other individuals are at risk of poisoning due to  
6 opioid misuse from errors made in following their prescription  
7 guidelines; and

8 WHEREAS, some individuals are at risk of poisoning due to  
9 dependence upon prescription opioids that leads them to take  
10 increasing doses and potentially to overdose; and

11 WHEREAS, some individuals abuse opioids by taking them  
12 without a prescription or in deliberate contravention of  
13 prescription guidelines; and

14 WHEREAS, the behavioral, physical and social determinants  
15 of prescription drug abuse, misuse and dependence are complex;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, it is not known why many people abuse, misuse or  
18 become addicted to prescription drugs as, according to the  
19 national council on alcohol and drug dependence, risk for  
20 addiction is influenced by a combination of factors that  
21 include individual biology, social environment and age or stage  
22 of development; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2014, the rate of deaths from prescription  
24 drug overdose in New Mexico reached twenty-six and four-tenths  
25 per one hundred thousand residents, falling just short of

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1 double the national average; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2014, five hundred thirty-six New Mexicans  
3 died tragically of prescription drug overdoses, a figure that  
4 represents more deaths lost to drug overdoses than in any other  
5 year on record; and

6 WHEREAS, it is not known how many of these deaths were due  
7 to abuse, misuse or dependence; and

8 WHEREAS, it is not known how many of these deaths could  
9 have been prevented by addressing some of the complex  
10 behavioral, physical and social risk factors for opioid misuse,  
11 abuse and dependence;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
13 OF NEW MEXICO that the prescription drug misuse and overdose  
14 prevention and pain management advisory council be requested to  
15 convene a task force consisting of qualified staff and  
16 representatives from the senate, the house of representatives,  
17 the human services department, the board of pharmacy, the  
18 department of public safety, local law enforcement offices and  
19 other experts from the New Mexico medical board, the board of  
20 osteopathic medical examiners, health maintenance  
21 organizations, pharmacists and pharmaceutical manufacturers;  
22 and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the prescription drug misuse  
24 and overdose prevention and pain management advisory council be  
25 requested to invite qualified staff from the local United

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1 States attorney's office, the New Mexico region southwest  
2 border high intensity drug trafficking area and the United  
3 States drug enforcement agency to participate in task force  
4 meetings; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
6 include in its study an analysis of the impact of and ways to  
7 prevent opioid abuse and overdose deaths in New Mexico,  
8 including ways to prevent opioid misuse, abuse and dependence  
9 while preserving access to appropriate pain treatment for  
10 patients who are able to use prescription pain drugs safely;  
11 and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
13 analyze appropriate pain treatments, including abuse-deterrent  
14 formulation opioid therapies and alternatives to opioid  
15 prescriptions; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state medical investigator  
17 be requested to provide de-identified, aggregate data that  
18 describe the manner and number of deaths due to opioid overdose  
19 in the state as well as de-identified, aggregate demographic  
20 data relating to New Mexicans who have died due to opioid  
21 overdose; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the governor, the president pro tempore of the  
24 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the  
25 secretary of health and the secretary of human services.

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