

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING THE FAMILIES OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS
3 WOMEN AND RELATIVES AND EXPRESSING UNWAVERING SUPPORT TO
4 CONTINUE TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST MISSING AND MURDERED
5 INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND RELATIVES.

6
7 WHEREAS, the welfare of New Mexican indigenous women,
8 children and relatives is connected to the broader
9 well-being, health and safety of all New Mexicans; and

10 WHEREAS, the missing and murdered indigenous women and
11 relatives crisis in New Mexico and beyond is inextricably
12 rooted in the larger, complex history of state-sanctioned
13 colonial violence against indigenous people; and

14 WHEREAS, the New Mexico missing persons information
15 clearinghouse data research analysis conducted in New Mexico
16 between 2014 and 2019 reported nine hundred eighty-six
17 missing person cases, ninety-seven percent of which remained
18 unsolved and sixteen percent of which involve indigenous
19 persons; and

20 WHEREAS, the 2020 New Mexico missing and murdered
21 indigenous women and relatives task force reported that
22 Albuquerque and Gallup, New Mexico, are among the top ten
23 cities in the United States for the highest number of missing
24 and murdered indigenous women and girls; and

25 WHEREAS, Native American women in New Mexico have the

1 highest rate of homicide victims among all racial and ethnic
2 groups; and

3 WHEREAS, tribal nations across the United States face
4 continued external threats that jeopardize tribal sovereignty
5 and the well-being and safety of indigenous women, children
6 and relatives; and

7 WHEREAS, it is critical that data be accurately reported
8 and captured and that more research be done to fully
9 understand the scope of the missing and murdered indigenous
10 women and relatives crisis to formulate appropriate
11 recommendations for justice; and

12 WHEREAS, in response to this ongoing crisis, Governor
13 Michelle Lujan Grisham signed executive order 2021-013
14 establishing the New Mexico missing and murdered indigenous
15 women and relatives task force; and

16 WHEREAS, the task force was created to develop a state
17 response plan addressing systemic changes that support
18 prevention, reporting and investigation of incidents of
19 missing and murdered indigenous women and relatives; and

20 WHEREAS, the task force meets monthly with goals of
21 developing a state response plan and the continued collection
22 of data from law enforcement agencies for 2020 missing
23 persons data, homicide data and accidental deaths; and

24 WHEREAS, in December 2021, the Indian affairs department
25 and the Bernalillo county district attorney's office entered

1 into a memorandum of understanding to form a specialized
2 missing and murdered indigenous women and relatives task
3 force with a special subunit to help solve cases of missing
4 and murdered indigenous women and relatives;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the families of missing and murdered
7 indigenous women and relatives be honored; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that support continue to be given
9 to address violence against missing and murdered indigenous
10 women and relatives; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the secretary of Indian affairs, the
13 twenty-three federally recognized Native American tribes of
14 New Mexico, the governor and the chair of the New Mexico
15 missing and murdered indigenous women and relatives task
16 force. _____

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