

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE
3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW MEXICO COALITION OF SEXUAL
4 ASSAULT PROGRAMS CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE CURRENT
5 STATE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS IN NEW MEXICO AND
6 REPORT PROGRESS ON THE PROCESSING OF BACKLOGGED SEXUAL
7 ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS.

8
9 WHEREAS, according to the 2024 *New Mexico Crime*
10 *Victimization Report*, fifty-four percent of all New Mexicans
11 have experienced sexual assault or rape in their lifetimes;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, of those surveyed, forty percent reported being
14 twelve years or younger at the time of the first incident;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, twenty-eight percent of respondents to the
17 *New Mexico Crime Victimization Report* survey reported being
18 injured to the extent of receiving medical care; and

19 WHEREAS, respondents of color were more likely than
20 white, non-Hispanic respondents to have been sexually
21 assaulted; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico has implemented processes to address
23 its sexual assault examination kit backlog and seeks to
24 ensure that another backlog does not form; and

25 WHEREAS, a sexual assault survivor has the opportunity

1 to receive information about the status of the sexual assault
2 survivor's sexual assault examination kit; and

3 WHEREAS, it has been ten years since the last sexual
4 assault examination kit backlog task force was convened;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of public safety and
7 the executive director of the New Mexico coalition of sexual
8 assault programs be requested to convene a task force to
9 study the current state of sexual assault examination kits in
10 New Mexico and report progress on the processing of
11 backlogged sexual assault examination kits; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed
13 of:

14 A. the secretary of public safety or the
15 secretary's designee;

16 B. the executive director of the New Mexico
17 coalition of sexual assault programs or the executive
18 director's designee;

19 C. the state auditor or the state auditor's
20 designee;

21 D. the attorney general or the attorney general's
22 designee;

23 E. the director of a rape crisis center that
24 serves a community with a population of one hundred thousand
25 or greater;

1 F. the director of a rape crisis center that
2 serves a community with a population of less than one hundred
3 thousand;

4 G. the director of a sexual assault nurse examiner
5 program that serves a community with a population of one
6 hundred thousand or greater;

7 H. the director of a sexual assault nurse examiner
8 program that serves a community with a population of less
9 than one hundred thousand;

10 I. the director of the department of public
11 safety's forensic laboratories bureau;

12 J. the sexual assault kit initiative program
13 coordinator in the department of public safety;

14 K. the director of the Albuquerque police
15 department's crime laboratory; and

16 L. the statewide sexual assault nurse examiner
17 coordinator; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public
19 safety or the secretary's designee and the executive director
20 of the New Mexico coalition of sexual assault programs or the
21 executive director's designee serve as co-chairs of the task
22 force; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force meet
24 beginning in July 2026; and

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

1 interim legislative committee dealing with courts,
2 corrections and justice issues and to the legislative health
3 and human services committee with the task force's
4 recommendations and updates on:

5 A. statewide progress made in processing sexual
6 assault examination kits to meet the time line defined in
7 Section 30-9-21 NMSA 1978;

8 B. the adequacy of services available to survivors
9 who are affected by the processing of sexual assault
10 examination kits;

11 C. potential solutions identified by the task
12 force to any current challenges in the processing of sexual
13 assault examination kits; and

14 D. any legislation the task force recommends for
15 introduction; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of public safety, the executive
18 director of the New Mexico coalition of sexual assault
19 programs, the attorney general, the director of the department
20 of public safety's forensic laboratories bureau, the director
21 of the Albuquerque police department's crime laboratory and
22 the statewide sexual assault nurse examiner coordinator. _____