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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY
GAIL C. BEAM

A JOINT MEMORIAL

CREATING AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE THE INTEGRATION OF
AND ACCESS TO SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN NEW
MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico wants to support the academic needs and
educational success of our children; and

WHEREAS, children in schools face multiple barriers to
successful learning, including learning problems, personal and
family issues, a lack of coordinated and accessible school and
community assessment programs and a lack of teacher training and
resources; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks in the top fifteen states for the
highest rates of alcoholism, public school dropouts, domestic
violence, poverty and teenage violent deaths; and

WHEREAS, children in our schools have needs for multiple

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1 mental health supports, as documented by state and national data
2 indicating that more than one-third of all children seen in
3 school-based health centers have needs for primary mental health
4 care services; and

5 WHEREAS, well over fifty percent of all children detained
6 in the juvenile justice system meet criteria for at least one
7 mental health diagnosis; and

8 WHEREAS, school children face multiple life stresses, have
9 multiple mental health needs and therefore require coordinated
10 school and community services to overcome barriers to
11 educational achievement;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a task force be formed to study
14 programs relevant to school mental health throughout the state
15 and to propose options for improvement and coordination of such
16 programs; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of school health in
18 the public health division of the department of health be the
19 lead agency of the task force; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
21 participation from the state department of public education, the
22 children, youth and families department, the human services
23 department, the corrections department, a statewide
24 developmental disabilities planning organization, providers,
25 advocates, consumers and family members of consumers of mental

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1 health programs and school personnel; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include in its
3 study a clarification of each agency's responsibilities and
4 authority to provide programs relevant to school mental health
5 and include data collected by the various agencies that may
6 assist in improving school mental health programs; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study include
8 all sources of financial support and recommend whether those
9 resources can be used more effectively and efficiently to
10 deliver improved school mental health programs; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
12 findings and legislative recommendations by October 15, 1997 to
13 the legislative education study committee and the legislative
14 health and human services committee; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be sent
16 to the heads of each department named to participate in the work
17 of the task force and to the various statewide organizations.

State of New Mexico
House of Representatives

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

February 26, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel F. Vigil, Chairman

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 8 For 0 Against

Yes: 8

Excused: Mi era, Nicely, Trujillo, Weeks, Wright

Absent: None

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 11, 1997

Mr. President:

Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Nava, Chairman

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

HEC/HJM 25

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

No: 0

Excused: Duran, Garcia, Gorham, Pinto

Absent: None

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