

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A STATEWIDE
3 YOUTH VIOLENCE SUMMIT AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE
4 APPROACH TO MITIGATE YOUTH VIOLENCE AND ESTABLISH
5 COMMUNITY-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION STRATEGIES.

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7 WHEREAS, youth violence is a significant concern for
8 New Mexico policymakers, communities, youth, families and the
9 general public, but New Mexico lacks a unified statewide
10 vision to address the root causes and risk factors of these
11 issues; and

12 WHEREAS, few, if any, targeted resources are allocated
13 for research-based youth violence prevention or intervention
14 services across the state, such as credible messengers, peer
15 supports, restorative justice or violence interrupters, and
16 these services do not exist at the scale needed; and

17 WHEREAS, current funding programs for youth who are
18 involved or at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice
19 system in New Mexico are not prioritized for the highest-risk
20 youth or youth engaged in violence; and

21 WHEREAS, data collection, tracking and reporting around
22 youth violence is limited and could be strengthened to better
23 understand the scope and scale of these challenges and the
24 needs of communities; and

25 WHEREAS, there is misalignment across state and local

1 stakeholders around how to best address youth violence
2 challenges in the state;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be
5 requested to convene a statewide youth violence summit to
6 develop a comprehensive statewide approach to mitigate youth
7 violence, strengthen public safety and improve youth and
8 community outcomes and to develop a strategy to expand
9 research-based community violence prevention and intervention
10 services; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
12 be requested to create a planning group consisting of the
13 following members to advise the department on the agenda and
14 other details of the youth violence summit:

15 A. representatives of the department of health,
16 the children, youth and families department, the health
17 care authority, the public education department, the
18 administrative office of the district attorneys and the chief
19 public defender;

20 B. members appointed by the secretary of health
21 to represent state and local law enforcement agencies, the
22 children's court, community-based organizations that focus on
23 helping troubled youth and youth and families who have lived
24 experience with the juvenile justice system;

25 C. New Mexico youth and families who have lived

1 experience with the juvenile justice system and victims of
2 youth violence; and

3 D. two senators and two representatives appointed
4 by the New Mexico legislative council on recommendation by
5 the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of
6 the house of representatives; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
8 and the planning group be requested to develop the agenda
9 to include speakers and facilitators from New Mexico, other
10 states that have successful youth violence mitigation
11 strategies and national experts; educational and
12 problem-solving panels; and plenary sessions and to advertise
13 the youth violence summit as a public event; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the youth
15 violence summit include:

16 A. disseminating research and best practices on
17 youth violence prevention and intervention;

18 B. disseminating state and local as well as other
19 states' examples of successful programs;

20 C. understanding current data trends in youth
21 violence across New Mexico and the needs of communities;

22 D. identifying promising approaches and gaps in
23 youth violence prevention and intervention strategies in
24 New Mexico;

25 E. developing recommendations for a statewide

1 vision for youth violence prevention and intervention that
2 centers the voices of youth, families and communities,
3 including recommendations related to needed investments in
4 research-based community violence programs;

5 F. developing strategies for scaling promising
6 approaches in the state;

7 G. strengthening data collection and reporting;

8 H. providing technical assistance and training and
9 additional support to localities and community stakeholders;
10 and

11 I. developing a vision and plan for a statewide
12 office to oversee and support efforts to mitigate youth
13 violence; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
15 be requested to write a final report detailing the findings
16 and recommendations of the youth violence summit, including
17 recommendations for investments and proposed legislation to
18 implement a comprehensive statewide approach to mitigate
19 youth violence that includes tested and innovative
20 community-based violence intervention strategies; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
22 requested to present findings and recommendations from the
23 summit to the appropriate legislative interim committees by
24 November 1, 2026; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the governor, the department of health, the
2 health care authority, the children, youth and families
3 department, the public education department, the
4 administrative office of the district attorneys for
5 distribution to district attorneys, the chief public defender
6 and the administrative office of the courts for dissemination
7 to children's court judges. _____

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