

____ JOINT MEMORIAL

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO WORK WITH THE
INTERAGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PURCHASING COLLABORATIVE, THE NEW
MEXICO VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, THE LAS CRUCES VET
CENTER, THE SILVER CITY COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC,
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 358 AND OTHER NECESSARY
ORGANIZATIONS TO STUDY THE UNMET BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PRIMARY
HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS IN SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, veterans have fought to defend the country and
deserve to be treated with the best health care possible; and

WHEREAS, state and federal governments have not provided
sufficient services to provide the necessary behavioral health
and primary care needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, local veterans, realizing that they
were suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms and

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1 finding local veterans' services scarce, formed a group to
2 support one another; and

3 WHEREAS, the number of veterans wanting to participate
4 outgrew the capacity and capability of the group; and

5 WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Vietnam veterans from Grant County
6 created their own chapter of the Vietnam veterans of America,
7 Chapter 358, to provide support for local veterans; and

8 WHEREAS, Vietnam veterans of America Chapter 358 has been
9 working tirelessly, day after day, to provide support and
10 assistance to the local veterans in Grant county; and

11 WHEREAS, Vietnam veterans of America Chapter 358 worked
12 with the local community to develop a federal veterans' center
13 in Grant county; however, the center was placed in Las Cruces;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, a social worker from the Las Cruces vet center
16 serves the Grant county area once per week, serving
17 approximately seventy veterans in three different groups; and

18 WHEREAS, primary health care funds from the United States
19 department of veterans affairs are depleted within the first
20 quarter of each year; and

21 WHEREAS, there is a gap in comprehensive, reliable,
22 consistent data for planning the support that is necessary for
23 veterans in the Grant county area;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the veterans' services department be

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1 requested to collaborate with the interagency behavioral health
2 purchasing collaborative, the New Mexico veterans affairs
3 health care system, the Las Cruces vet center, the Silver City
4 community based outpatient clinic, Vietnam veterans of America
5 Chapter 358 and other necessary organizations to study the
6 unmet behavioral health and primary health care needs of
7 veterans in southwestern New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that findings of the study be
9 reported to the legislative military and veterans' affairs
10 committee on or before November 1, 2012; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an action plan be developed,
12 following the report to the military and veterans' affairs
13 committee, that will promote an increase in veterans' services
14 in the Grant county area; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services.