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_____ 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 HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 358 AND OTHER NECESSARY ORGANIZATIONS TO STUDY THE UNMET BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS IN NEW MEXICO.

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

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

WHEREAS, comprehensive, reliable, consistent data is essential to planning the support that is needed to provide for

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1 the necessary behavioral health and primary health care needs
2 of veterans in the state; and

3 WHEREAS, the withdrawal of military forces from Iraq by
4 the end of 2011, and from Afghanistan by 2014, will
5 significantly increase the number of veterans needing
6 behavioral health and primary health care services; and

7 WHEREAS, it is important to identify the gaps in
8 behavioral health and primary health care services for veterans
9 currently living in the state, and for veterans that are soon
10 to be coming home;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the veterans' services department be
13 requested to collaborate with the interagency behavioral health
14 purchasing collaborative, the New Mexico veterans health
15 administration, Vietnam veterans of America Chapter 358 and
16 other necessary organizations to study the unmet behavioral
17 health and primary health care needs of veterans in the state;
18 and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of the study be
20 reported to the military and veterans' affairs committee on or
21 before November 1, 2012; and

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