1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 10
2	45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Nancy E. Rodriguez
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	A JOINT MEMORIAL
11	REQUESTING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE ON
12	EMPLOYMENT TO EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY EMPLOYMENT
13	SERVICES FOR NEW MEXICANS WITH DISABILITIES.
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15	WHEREAS, there are more than two hundred five thousand
16	New Mexicans of working age with disabilities, and more than
17	seventy percent of them are unemployed; and
18	WHEREAS, all New Mexicans are entitled to an opportunity
19	to be gainfully employed and to contribute to society, their
20	community and their personal well-being; and
21	WHEREAS, our society places a high value on work, but
22	does not provide adequate accessibility for persons with
23	disabilities to participate in the workforce; and
24	WHEREAS, persons with disabilities often face significant
25	barriers in accessing meaningful and gainful employment
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WHEREAS, there exist employment services that can offer proven, effective support services to persons with disabilities who seek to actively participate in employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, employed persons with disabilities contribute significantly to the state's economy and tax base; and

WHEREAS, effective and efficient government promotes partnerships and collaboration among state agencies and the private sector to ensure the effective use of resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the labor department be requested to develop an employment task force that will develop a cooperative employment initiative for persons with disabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that representatives of the department of health, the division of vocational rehabilitation of the state department of public education, the developmental disabilities planning council, the human services department, the governor's committee on the concerns of the handicapped, the commission for the blind, the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, the state agency on aging, the Indian behavioral health council, the

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governor's mental health planning council, the social security administration and advocacy organizations be invited to participate on the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to prepare a report identifying the barriers, problems and recommendations for the creation of a coordinated infrastructure system to provide significantly more employment services to persons with disabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its findings to an appropriate interim committee of the legislature prior to the second session of the forty-fifth legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretaries of labor, health and human services, the superintendent of public instruction, the developmental disabilities planning council, the governor's committee on the concerns of the handicapped, the commission for the blind, the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, the state agency on aging, the Indian behavioral health council, the governor's mental health planning council and the social security administration.

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