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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 26
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY
Edward C. Sandoval

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STUDY THE NEED FOR
ADDITIONAL TREATMENT BEDS FOR VIOLENT, MENTALLY ILL
ADOLESCENTS, ESPECIALLY VIOLENT, MENTALLY ILL ADOLESCENT
FEMALES.

WHEREAS, in providing funding for the construction and
operation of the Sequoyah adolescent treatment center, it was
the intent of the New Mexico legislature that treatment be
provided for violent, mentally ill adolescents and that such
children be served regardless of gender or whether acute or
chronic conditions are involved; and

WHEREAS, it was the intent of the legislature that, of the
four treatment pods comprising the center, one should house
female residents and one should treat children with acute
conditions; and

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1 WHEREAS, although the center is fully operational and
2 capable of providing treatment for up to thirty-six violent,
3 mentally ill adolescents, this treatment is provided
4 exclusively to boys and largely for chronic conditions; and

5 WHEREAS, there is a continuous waiting list for acceptance
6 into the program; and

7 WHEREAS, changes in medicaid regulations have lessened the
8 availability of beds and facilities for treatment throughout
9 the state of both chronically and acutely mentally ill
10 adolescents, chronic cases in particular; and

11 WHEREAS, juvenile detention and commitment facilities are
12 not capable of providing necessary therapeutic intervention for
13 the considerable number of their residents who require such
14 treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, the need and demand for such services now far
16 exceeds the availability of beds; and

17 WHEREAS, there is room for facility expansion on the
18 grounds of the Sequoyah adolescent treatment center; and

19 WHEREAS, the Sequoyah adolescent treatment center advisory
20 board recognizes the critical need for a residential treatment
21 facility for female adolescents;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
24 to conduct a study to determine the nature and scope of the
25 need for additional treatment beds, with particular attention

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1 to the need for the provision of additional resources for the
2 treatment of violent, mentally ill adolescent females; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
4 report its findings to the legislative health and human
5 services committee at its October 2003 meeting; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the department of health and to the legislative
8 health and human services committee.

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