1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 15
2	46th LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Linda M Lopez
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8	FOR THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
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10	A JOINT MEMORIAL
11	REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT AND THE
12	HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO CREATE AN
13	INTERDEPARTMENTAL PLAN TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN OF
14	INCARCERATED PARENTS.
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16	WHEREAS, annually, at least five thousand New Mexico
17	children have a parent or parents in prison; and
18	WHEREAS, these children are six to eight times more likely
19	to be incarcerated themselves later in their lives; and
20	WHEREAS, the state has no system for recognizing and
21	addressing the needs of children whose parents are incarcerated
22	and whose plight is essentially invisible; and
23	WHEREAS, the majority of families caring for these
24	children are living below the federal poverty level; and
25	WHEREAS, many of these children experience serious
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<u>underscored mterial = new</u> [bracketed mterial] = delete behavioral problems, but these problems are seldom identified and the children rarely receive necessary services; and

WHEREAS, often these children and families qualify for benefits, but receive them only on occasion; and

WHEREAS, being the child of an incarcerated parent is not a crime, but these children are often left in a state of neglect;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families department and the human services department be requested to convene a task force to create an interdepartmental plan to address the needs of children of incarcerated parents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include representatives from the department of health, the state department of public education and the corrections department and representatives of the courts, public defenders, county jails, law enforcement, district attorney offices and advocates for children and families: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop a system for identification of and an inventory of needs and services and the barriers to accessing those services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop a coordinated system of evaluation and intake for all children of incarcerated parents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop an . 143276. 1 - 2 -

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integrated plan of service delivery, budgeting, performance measures and accountability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report progress and legislative recommendations to the interim legislative health and human services committee no later than its October 2003 meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the children, youth and families department, the human services department, the department of health, the state department of public education, the corrections department and to representatives of the courts, public defenders, county jails, law enforcement agencies statewide, district attorney offices, advocates for children and families, the interim legislative health and human services committee and other appropriate groups.

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