

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND STATE
3 AGENCIES TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CONVERTING THE STATE
4 STATUTES, RULES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS INTO GENDER-NEUTRAL
5 LANGUAGE.

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7 WHEREAS, New Mexico has been a leader among the states
8 in promoting gender equality; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislature has previously adopted
10 legislation regarding the use of gender-specific language in
11 the construction of statutes under Section 12-2A-5 NMSA 1978;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, this legislation did not provide explicit
14 guidance for the drafting of future legislation, but since
15 May 2002, there has been an increase in the use of
16 gender-neutral language; and

17 WHEREAS, the New Mexico supreme court has recently
18 modified its rules to provide more explicit guidance in the
19 use of gender-neutral language, and the state bar board of
20 bar commissioners, at the urging of its committee on women
21 and the legal profession, unanimously supports changes in
22 existing statutory language to promote gender equality; and

23 WHEREAS, other states have empowered their legislative
24 council service or equivalent agency to act as a revisor of
25 statutes by reviewing statutes and replacing gender-specific

1 language where reasonable and possible;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council
4 be requested to:

5 A. appoint a code revision committee to determine
6 the scope and the level of effort needed to develop
7 procedures for revising the statutes using gender-neutral
8 language; and

9 B. work with the committee on women and the legal
10 profession of the New Mexico state bar to develop legislation
11 that will clearly guide the drafting of gender-neutral
12 legislation in the future; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council, the office
15 of the governor and the state executive and judicial branch
16 agencies.

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