

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 22

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
EXTENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEW MEXICO AND TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS.

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a serious problem in the
United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers prey on the most vulnerable and
turn a commercial profit at the expense of innocent lives; and

WHEREAS, victims of trafficking are recruited, transported
or sold into all forms of forced labor and servitude, including
prostitution, sweatshops, domestic service and farming; and

WHEREAS, each year an estimated six hundred thousand to
eight hundred thousand women, men and children are trafficked
across international borders, fourteen thousand five hundred to
seventeen thousand five hundred of whom are trafficked into the

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1 United States; and

2 WHEREAS, approximately eighty percent of trafficking
3 victims are female and many are trafficked for sex and the
4 commercial sex industry; and

5 WHEREAS, the southwest border continues to serve as the
6 biggest point of illegal entry into the United States, largely
7 because traffickers are able to get undocumented people across
8 without documents;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of public safety be
11 requested to assemble and chair a task force to assess the
12 nature and extent of human trafficking in New Mexico, to assess
13 state responses to date and to make recommendations to the
14 legislature for development of state law to prosecute
15 traffickers; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of a
17 representative of the attorney general's office; the United
18 States attorney's office; the labor department; the department
19 of health; and the children, youth and families department; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study the
21 nature and extent of human trafficking in this state;
22 investigate collaborative models for protecting victims of
23 trafficking; measure and evaluate New Mexico's progress in
24 preventing trafficking, assisting victims of trafficking and
25 prosecuting traffickers; evaluate approaches by other state and

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1 local governments to increase public awareness of human
2 trafficking; and analyze existing laws dealing with
3 trafficking; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force prepare a
5 report detailing its findings and recommendations, including
6 methods to address human trafficking and to provide a
7 coordinated system of support and assistance to its victims;
8 and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
10 findings and recommendations to the governor and the
11 legislature by July 1, 2008; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor, the attorney general and the
14 secretary of public safety.

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