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HOUSE MEMORIAL 34

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas A. Anderson

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION CONVENE
A TASK FORCE TO STUDY POSSIBLE CORRELATIONS BETWEEN
ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS AND TO
RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS ANY CORRELATION.

WHEREAS, the federal food and drug administration issued a
public warning in October 2004 about an increased risk of
suicidal thoughts or behaviors in children and adolescents
treated with a class of antidepressant medications called
selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, an advisory committee to the federal
food and drug administration recommended that the federal food
and drug administration issue a public warning about an
increased risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors in young
adults up to the age of twenty-five who are taking selective

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1 serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and

2 WHEREAS, in September 2007, a study, published in the
3 *American Journal of Psychiatry*, found that there is not a
4 positive correlation between antidepressants and suicidal
5 thoughts or behaviors in young people; and

6 WHEREAS, studies and professional organizations disagree
7 as to whether the prescription of antidepressant medications
8 should be further regulated or further protocols developed to
9 guard against suicidal thoughts or behaviors among young
10 people; and

11 WHEREAS, according to the treatment for adolescents with
12 depression study, funded by the national institute of mental
13 health, a combination of medication and psychotherapy is the
14 most effective treatment for adolescents with depression; and

15 WHEREAS, the federal food and drug administration has
16 issued guidelines stating that individuals who take
17 antidepressants must be carefully monitored for worsening
18 depression, suicidal thoughts or suicidal behaviors; and

19 WHEREAS, on the basis that some physicians are
20 inadequately monitoring or are unaware of the risks that
21 antidepressants may pose for young people, the state of
22 California has considered legislation that would require all
23 family practice physicians who treat depression by prescribing
24 antidepressants to undergo mandatory continuing medical
25 education on the subject of antidepressant medications;

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
3 health policy commission be requested to convene a task force
4 comprising experts from the human services department and the
5 department of health; medical and behavioral health providers;
6 and other health care and health policy experts to investigate
7 whether there is a correlation between antidepressant drugs and
8 suicidal thoughts and behaviors and to recommend policy
9 solutions to address the correlation, if it exists; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
11 examine whether providers who prescribe antidepressants should
12 be required to undergo mandatory continuing medical education
13 on the subject of antidepressant medications in order to
14 provide expertise in monitoring the risks that may be
15 associated with antidepressants in young people; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
17 examine whether providers should be allowed to prescribe
18 antidepressants to patients only in combination with concurrent
19 psychotherapy; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
21 examine in particular whether the scope of providers permitted
22 to prescribe psychotropic drugs should be narrowed to include
23 only persons specialized in the practice of psychiatry,
24 psychiatric nurse practitioners and psychiatric physician
25 assistants; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico health policy commission.

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