

HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE MEMORIAL 34

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

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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