

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT CREATE A TASK
3 FORCE TO STUDY THE CONDITION OF PRISONERS IN THE NEW MEXICO
4 PRISON SYSTEM AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

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6 WHEREAS, millions of tax dollars are spent annually on
7 imprisoning criminals while recidivism rates remain high; and

8 WHEREAS, at least one-half of all convicts are
9 incarcerated for nonviolent crimes; and

10 WHEREAS, prison environments are often overcrowded,
11 creating health hazards and facilitating the spread of
12 disease; and

13 WHEREAS, violence is prevalent in many prisons, and many
14 prisoners commit suicide; and

15 WHEREAS, most prisoners are under the age of
16 thirty-five, and many are women and young adults; and

17 WHEREAS, the cost of incarceration in New Mexico is at
18 least ten times the cost of probation or parole; and

19 WHEREAS, effective programs and support structures can
20 directly address recidivism and significantly reduce
21 corrections costs; and

22 WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of Hispanic, Native
23 American and African American persons are incarcerated;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections department be

