

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO SEEK FUNDING THROUGH THE AMERICAN
3 RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 FOR A MENTAL HEALTH AND
4 CRISIS TRIAGE FACILITY IN DONA ANA COUNTY.

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6 WHEREAS, interested parties in Dona Ana county have been
7 advocating for increased access to health and human services,
8 especially behavioral health services, for more than fifteen
9 years; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Dona Ana county health and human
11 services alliance was created as an advisory body to the Dona
12 Ana county health and human services department; and

13 WHEREAS, according to the alliance, thirty-three percent
14 of the detention center population in that county is in need
15 of behavioral health services; and

16 WHEREAS, individuals experiencing a mental health crisis
17 often only have access to services provided in a detention
18 center, a situation in which there are limited options for
19 appropriate interventions and the individuals are separated
20 from family and community supports; and

21 WHEREAS, although community-based services are
22 available, they lack systematic coordination and are
23 seriously underfunded; and

24 WHEREAS, a study conducted pursuant to Senate Memorial
25 34, passed in 2006, concluded that the south central part of

1 New Mexico lacks the infrastructure to sustain a
2 state-operated behavioral facility; and

3 WHEREAS, this study recommended an increase in recurrent
4 funding for inpatient mental health services of more than two
5 million dollars (\$2,000,000) to cover unfunded inpatient
6 mental health services in Dona Ana county; and

7 WHEREAS, the alliance and the Dona Ana county health and
8 human services department have concluded that the key to
9 addressing behavioral health problems is through a
10 community-oriented, integrated service delivery system; and

11 WHEREAS, a crisis triage center is the centerpiece of
12 such a system; and

13 WHEREAS, a crisis triage facility is able to house, in a
14 safe environment where appropriate assessments and treatment
15 can be administered, individuals who have been taken into
16 protective custody or who are in severe psychological
17 distress; and

18 WHEREAS, the development of enhanced behavioral health
19 crisis triage capacity is part of the Dona Ana county health
20 and human services plan designed to promote access to health
21 care services, address chronic diseases, prevent injuries and
22 illness and address maternal and child health, oral health
23 and teen pregnancy; and

24 WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
25 2009 contains many opportunities to address health care, law

1 enforcement and community services needs;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to seek
4 funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
5 2009 for a mental health and crisis triage facility in Dona
6 Ana county; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the governor and to the director of the Dona
9 Ana county health and human services department. _____

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