

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 84

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3           WHEREAS, effective programs and support structures can  
4 directly address recidivism and significantly reduce  
5 corrections costs; and

6           WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of Hispanic, Native  
7 American and African American persons are incarcerated;

8           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections department be  
10 requested to convene a task force to study the condition of  
11 prisoners in New Mexico prisons and make recommendations for  
12 improvements, enlisting participation in the task force from  
13 the workforce solutions, public education and higher education  
14 departments and the department of human services; and

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its  
16 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim  
17 committee by the fall of 2009; and

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the secretaries of workforce solutions, public  
20 education, higher education and human services.

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