

1 A MEMORIAL

2 URGING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A TASK  
3 FORCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARGED WITH  
4 DECREASING THE NUMBERS AND SEVERITY OF CHILD ABUSE AND  
5 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS, SAVING LIVES AND SAVING FAMILIES  
6 IN THIS STATE, WHERE CHILD ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARE SO  
7 PREVALENT.

8  
9 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a state with an ancient and  
10 modern history of child abuse and domestic violence as  
11 commonplace; and

12 WHEREAS, statistics are all but impossible to gather on  
13 the local costs and emotional and psychological impact of  
14 child abuse and domestic violence on those who suffer,  
15 survive and sometimes model the violence, leading to the  
16 perpetuation of child abuse and domestic violence into yet  
17 another generation; and

18 WHEREAS, the increasingly common tragedy of killing of  
19 children is in the news; and

20 WHEREAS, domestic violence can be defined as a pattern  
21 of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one  
22 partner to gain or maintain power and control over another  
23 intimate partner or child; and

24 WHEREAS, domestic violence can be physical, sexual,  
25 emotional, economic or psychological, including threats of

1 actions that influence another person such as behaviors that  
2 intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten,  
3 terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure or wound  
4 someone; and

5 WHEREAS, violent physical abuse in New Mexico of late  
6 has included murder and maiming of children as well as  
7 bruising and battering of adults who were once trusted allies  
8 of the perpetrator; and

9 WHEREAS, often perpetrators of domestic violence were  
10 victims of domestic violence when they were too young, too  
11 weak or too disempowered to confront a perpetrator of  
12 domestic violence against themselves; and

13 WHEREAS, the pattern established as domestic violence  
14 victims become perpetrators against others, who then become  
15 victims who are more likely to become perpetrators, is both  
16 tragic and destructive to health; and

17 WHEREAS, the loss of lives of innocent children in  
18 domestic violence incidents is intolerable; and

19 WHEREAS, the cycles of domestic violence and child abuse  
20 spell not only lost lives from murder but also lost promise  
21 from those who become addicts in order to wipe away the  
22 memories of suffering the violence; and

23 WHEREAS, the loss to the community from domestic  
24 violence and especially child deaths can include the  
25 financial costs of treating victims and trying to prevent

1 future violence as well as the emotional costs of loss of  
2 lives and loss of trust and innocence; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico has been trying to cut the incidents  
4 of violence and minimize the attendant loss of financial,  
5 physical and psychological damage caused by domestic violence  
6 but has not been successful; and

7 WHEREAS, it is absolutely necessary to stop the cycle of  
8 domestic violence and child abuse in a way that will reorient  
9 the perpetrator to the tragedy of the perpetrator's own  
10 experience and the tragedy of the harm the perpetrator has  
11 caused, to empower the victim to overcome the shock and loss  
12 of trust and confidence that results from discovering that a  
13 loved one means to dominate and injure the victim and to help  
14 individuals and families rebuild lives after the havoc  
15 wreaked on health, employment, education and psychological  
16 well-being after the domestic violence subsides; and

17 WHEREAS, other states and countries have discovered some  
18 success in decreasing the impact of domestic violence by  
19 intensive intervention with a domestic violence perpetrator  
20 immediately upon arrest; and

21 WHEREAS, both legal and social work can be used to slow  
22 or erase the tendency to reoffend; and

23 WHEREAS, such remedies may require sizeable use of  
24 taxpayer dollars but are likely to save the state money over  
25 time;

1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council  
3 be urged to dedicate itself to focusing on means of solving  
4 the domestic violence and child abuse crisis in New Mexico;  
5 and

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative  
7 council be urged to appoint a task force on stopping the  
8 violence that is the scourge of so many New Mexico homes; and

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force focus on  
10 preventing child abuse; and

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include staff  
12 from the children, youth and families department, the  
13 department of health, law enforcement, hospital or emergency  
14 room staff with experience in trauma treatment, a  
15 psychologist and a social worker as well as the governor's  
16 staff working on domestic violence issues; and

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report to the  
18 New Mexico legislative council by October 2010 on its  
19 recommendations for structures to put in place to minimize,  
20 stop and prevent domestic violence incidents and their  
21 impact; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
24 council, the governor, the state's major hospitals and the  
25 secretaries of health and children, youth and families. \_\_\_\_\_