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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE INTERAGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PURCHASING COLLABORATIVE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PROCESS TO TRAIN, EDUCATE AND EMPOWER PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND BEHAVIORAL THERAPISTS TO BECOME ACADEMIC CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN AND THEREBY REDUCE AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS AND THE NEED FOR CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS.

WHEREAS, the children of New Mexico are its most important resource; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico schools are challenged by serious budget and funding constraints; and

WHEREAS, aggressive behavior in schools can result in costly destruction of property and unproductive utilization of both human and capital resources; and

WHEREAS, training of parents, caregivers, social workers and behavioral therapists to serve as academic champions for children has been shown to be a cost-effective way to raise student academic skills, reduce the incidence of aggressive behavior and reduce the need for clinical interventions; and

WHEREAS, OptumHealth New Mexico is under a contract to provide behavioral health and ancillary services to children and families in New Mexico in need of such services; and

WHEREAS, no current program exists, nor is there funding to train, educate and empower parents, caregivers, social

1 workers and behavioral therapists to become academic
2 champions and better prepared advocates for children; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico parents, children and schools would
4 benefit from such a program; and

5 WHEREAS, cooperation is necessary among the interagency
6 behavioral health purchasing collaborative, the public
7 education department, the children, youth and families
8 department and OptumHealth New Mexico in order to develop a
9 coordinated, cohesive and unified approach to reducing youth
10 violence and aggressive behaviors in the schools and
11 improving educational outcomes for children;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the interagency behavioral health
14 purchasing collaborative be requested to convene a task force
15 to develop a process to train, educate and empower parents,
16 caregivers, social workers and behavioral therapists to
17 become academic champions for children and thereby reduce
18 aggressive behavior in schools and the need for clinical
19 interventions; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop
21 recommended changes to the contract with OptumHealth to
22 ensure adequate funding for training and support systems for
23 this purpose, including consideration of establishment of a
24 pilot program; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task

1 force include representation from the public education
2 department, the children, youth and families department and
3 other appropriate agencies and individuals; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present a
5 report of its findings and recommendations to the interim
6 legislative health and human services committee and the
7 governor by October 2011 and to all the members of the
8 legislature when the second session of the fiftieth
9 legislature convenes; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the chief executive officer of the interagency
12 behavioral health purchasing collaborative, the secretary of
13 public education, the secretary of children, youth and
14 families, the chief executive officer of OptumHealth New
15 Mexico and the governor. _____

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