

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
3 FOUNDATION CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF
4 THE DRUG POLICY TASK FORCE IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ITS
5 COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN BASED ON THE FOUR
6 PILLAR APPROACH.

7
8 WHEREAS, the forty-ninth legislature passed Senate
9 Memorial 33 requesting the university of New Mexico's Robert
10 Wood Johnson foundation center for health policy to create a
11 drug policy task force to evaluate New Mexico's approach to
12 alleviating the negative consequences associated with the use
13 of alcohol and other drugs; and

14 WHEREAS, the drug policy task force met seven times
15 between June and December of 2010, inviting designees
16 appointed by the New Mexico legislative council;
17 representatives from the office of the governor, the office
18 of the lieutenant governor, the corrections department, the
19 department of health, the children, youth and families
20 department, the human services department, the public
21 education department, the legislative finance committee, the
22 DWI grant council, the aging and long-term services
23 department, county detention facilities, the administrative
24 office of the courts, the department of public safety, the
25 interagency behavioral health purchasing collaborative, the

1 behavioral health planning council, the university of
2 New Mexico, the New Mexico association of counties, the drug
3 policy alliance and the New Mexico women's justice project;
4 two individuals with criminal drug convictions; and two
5 individuals in recovery from substance abuse; and

6 WHEREAS, the drug policy task force utilized a four
7 pillar approach to examine prevention, treatment, harm
8 reduction and enforcement in order to develop strategies for
9 effective change in New Mexico's drug policy; and

10 WHEREAS, the initial comprehensive statewide strategic
11 plan that was developed by the task force includes a section
12 on current approaches to drug policy, addressing the number
13 and geography of people impacted and local and statewide
14 assessments of services and needs; a section on prevention
15 recommendations; and a section on treatment recommendations;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the drug policy task force was directed to
18 compile a list of expenditures for prevention, treatment,
19 harm reduction and enforcement and an assessment of the
20 effectiveness of current programs, but the task force was
21 unable to complete the process of gathering this data and
22 information prior to the start of the first session of the
23 fiftieth legislature; and

24 WHEREAS, the task force was directed to develop a list
25 of evaluation measures to include the impact of drug abuse on

1 youth, rates of drug overdose fatalities, rates of HIV/AIDS
2 and hepatitis, access to treatment, the number of
3 incarcerated, nonviolent drug law offenders, access to
4 alternatives to incarceration and racial disparities
5 exacerbated by the criminal justice system, but the task
6 force was unable to complete the process of gathering this
7 data prior to the first session of the fiftieth legislature;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the drug policy task force presented its
10 initial findings to the interim legislative health and human
11 services committee, the interim courts, corrections and
12 justice committee and the legislative finance committee;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the university of New Mexico's
15 Robert Wood Johnson foundation center for health policy be
16 requested to continue the work of the drug policy task force
17 in order to complete its comprehensive statewide strategic
18 plan based on the four pillar approach; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force continue to
20 evaluate New Mexico's approach to alleviating the negative
21 consequences associated with the use of alcohol and other
22 drugs; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its
24 final comprehensive statewide strategic plan, including
25 conclusions and recommendations, to the interim legislative

1 health and human services committee, courts, corrections and
2 justice committee, the legislative finance committee and
3 other appropriate interim legislative committees by November
4 2011; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan and all
6 of its conclusions and recommendations be made available to
7 other interested legislative committees, executive agencies
8 and the public through publication on the center for health
9 policy's web site; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the director of the Robert Wood Johnson
12 foundation center for health policy and to each of the
13 agencies and organizations named in this memorial as
14 participants on the task force.

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