

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 45

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
12 FOUNDATION CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE
13 DRUG POLICY TASK FORCE IN ORDER TO COMPLETE SELECTED SECTIONS
14 OF ITS COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN BASED ON THE FOUR
15 PILLAR APPROACH.

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17 WHEREAS, the fiftieth legislature passed Senate Memorial
18 18 requesting the university of New Mexico's Robert Wood
19 Johnson foundation center for health policy to create a drug
20 policy task force to evaluate New Mexico's approach to
21 alleviating the negative consequences associated with the use
22 of alcohol and other drugs; and

23 WHEREAS, the drug policy task force met six times between
24 June and November of 2011, inviting designees appointed by the
25 New Mexico legislative council; representatives from the office

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1 of the governor, the office of the lieutenant governor, the
2 corrections department, the department of health, the children,
3 youth and families department, the human services department,
4 the public education department, the legislative finance
5 committee, the DWI grant council, the aging and long-term
6 services department, county detention facilities, the
7 administrative office of the courts, the department of public
8 safety, the interagency behavioral health purchasing
9 collaborative, the behavioral health planning council, the
10 university of New Mexico, the New Mexico association of
11 counties, the drug policy alliance and the New Mexico women's
12 justice project; two individuals with criminal drug
13 convictions; and two individuals in recovery from substance
14 abuse; and

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

19 WHEREAS, the initial comprehensive statewide strategic
20 plan that was developed by the task force includes a section on
21 current approaches to drug policy, addressing the number and
22 geography of people impacted and local and statewide
23 assessments of services and needs; sections on prevention and
24 harm reduction recommendations; a section on treatment
25 recommendations; and sections on prevention and treatment in

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1 prisons and county detention centers; and

2 WHEREAS, the drug policy task force was directed to
3 compile a list of expenditures for prevention, treatment, harm
4 reduction and enforcement and an assessment of the
5 effectiveness of current programs, but the task force was
6 unable to complete the process of gathering this data and
7 information prior to the start of the second session of the
8 fiftieth legislature; and

9 WHEREAS, the task force was directed to develop a list of
10 evaluation measures to include the impact of drug abuse on
11 youth, rates of drug overdose fatalities, rates of HIV/AIDS and
12 hepatitis, access to treatment, the number of incarcerated,
13 nonviolent drug law offenders, access to alternatives to
14 incarceration and racial disparities exacerbated by the
15 criminal justice system, but the task force was unable to
16 complete the process of gathering this data prior to the second
17 session of the fiftieth legislature; and

18 WHEREAS, the drug policy task force presented its findings
19 to the behavioral health subcommittee of the interim
20 legislative health and human services committee, the interim
21 courts, corrections and justice committee and the legislative
22 finance committee;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the university of New Mexico's Robert
25 Wood Johnson foundation center for health policy be requested

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1 to continue the work of the drug policy task force in order to
2 complete its comprehensive statewide strategic plan based on
3 the four pillar approach; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force continue to
5 evaluate New Mexico's approach to alleviating the negative
6 consequences associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs
7 and convene committees, as needed, to evaluate, analyze and
8 make recommendations pertaining to the costs of substance use
9 disorders and the cost offset of treatment, alternatives to
10 incarceration for persons with these disorders and the
11 implementation of statutes that require parity for the
12 treatment of behavioral health disorders; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its
14 final comprehensive statewide strategic plan, including
15 conclusions and recommendations, to the interim legislative
16 health and human services committee, the legislative finance
17 committee and other appropriate interim legislative committees
18 by November 2012; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan and all of
20 its conclusions and recommendations be made available to other
21 interested legislative committees, executive agencies and the
22 public through publication on the center for health policy's
23 web site; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the director of the Robert Wood Johnson

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1 foundation center for health policy and to each of the agencies
2 and organizations named in this memorial as participants on the
3 task force.

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