

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 12

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT TO INCORPORATE PEER-TO-PEER APPROACHES INTO EXISTING
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EFFORTS.

WHEREAS, in 2012, high school students at New Mexico's
first centennial town hall called for an increase in the number
of peer-to-peer substance abuse programs within schools and
colleges to enable peers to promote and become the voice of
substance abuse prevention, communication and referrals; and

WHEREAS, the need for peer-to-peer substance abuse
programs was endorsed by ninety-three percent of the two
hundred students representing all regions of New Mexico, who
attended the centennial town hall; and

WHEREAS, the department of health and the human services
department operate a wide range of existing substance abuse

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1 prevention programs, grants and initiatives, but most do not
2 use peer-to-peer models; and

3 WHEREAS, extensive research has shown that peer programs
4 can have statistically substantial effects on attitudes, norms,
5 knowledge, behaviors and health and achievement outcomes; and

6 WHEREAS, research has concluded that peer-to-peer models
7 have reduced the use of alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana and
8 other drugs, anabolic steroids and diet pills and have reduced
9 injection risk behaviors; and

10 WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that peer-to-peer
11 models have improved other outcomes, including employment,
12 school attendance, school grades and graduation rates; and

13 WHEREAS, research has found that peer-to-peer models have
14 improved the outcomes of non-sexual risk behaviors, resulting
15 in reduced arrest rates, reduced sports injuries and reduced
16 incidents of riding with a driver who had been using
17 substances; and

18 WHEREAS, research has shown that peer-to-peer models have
19 improved healthy behaviors such as seeking appropriate health
20 care;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health and the human
23 services department be requested to examine existing substance
24 abuse prevention programs and funding and, where possible,
25 incorporate peer-to-peer approaches; and

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