

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 11

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO CREATE A STATEWIDE HEALTH PLAN DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE LONG-TERM HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE STRANGULATION.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has the second-highest domestic violence rate in the United States, and sixty-eight percent of all domestic violence victims will experience near fatal strangulation as a consequence of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, often, even in fatal cases, there is no external evidence of injury from strangulation, yet because of underlying brain damage due to the lack of oxygen during the strangulation assault, victims may have serious internal injuries or die days or even weeks later; and

WHEREAS, anoxic brain injury from strangulation may occur within seconds and death may occur within minutes; and

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WHEREAS, many law enforcement agencies underestimate the significance of strangulation and its potential lethality and fail to make appropriate medical referrals; and

WHEREAS, many first responders and emergency room

personnel lack the training necessary to identify the signs and
symptoms of strangulation and often focus on visible, obvious
injuries like stab wounds or contusions; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach is needed from law enforcement, first responders and the medical community to effectively address strangulation, reduce children's exposure to violence and end the cycle of violence; and

WHEREAS, the injury prevention division of the department of health is charged with the promotion of programs and policies focusing on the prevention of sexual violence and intimate partner violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to convene a task force to create a statewide health plan to reduce the incidence of interpersonal violence strangulation and address the long-term health implications of interpersonal violence strangulation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of health be requested to invite representatives from the following entities to participate in the task force:

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A. the New Mexico coalition against domestic	
violence;	
B. the New Mexico coalition of sexual assault	
programs;	
C. the Santa Fe coordinated community response	
council;	
D. a law enforcement agency;	
E. the university of New Mexico health sciences	
center;	
F. the Indian health service;	
G. a medical first responder agency;	
H. a medical professional with an expertise in the	
area of anoxic brain injury caused by strangulation; and	
I. any other appropriate entity; and	
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its	
recommendations to the legislative health and human services	
committee and the legislative finance committee no later than	
November 30, 2017; and	
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be	
transmitted to the secretary of health, the chair of the	
legislative finance committee, the director of the legislative	

finance committee and the chair of the interim legislative

health and human services committee.