

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE SUPREME COURT TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY
3 THE GAPS IN LEGAL SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
4 AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION
5 OF COST-EFFECTIVE LEGAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THOSE GAPS.

6
7 WHEREAS, the center for court innovation has found that
8 providing a combination of resources to victims of domestic
9 violence, from full legal representation and limited-scope
10 legal services to non-legal advice and assistance, is most
11 effective in meeting the wide array of domestic violence
12 victims' needs; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States department of justice's
14 office of justice programs has found that a victim of
15 domestic violence who is able to obtain a permanent
16 protection order is eighty percent less likely to be a victim
17 of a future instance of domestic violence; and

18 WHEREAS, access to targeted legal services increases a
19 victim's ability to obtain permanent protection orders; and

20 WHEREAS, the center for court innovation has determined
21 that legal support at various key stages of a court case,
22 including for post-issuance modification and enforcement of
23 orders, can make a tremendous difference in the ultimate
24 outcome of family court cases involving domestic violence;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, a cross-system collaboration among many
2 stakeholders, judicial officers, court personnel, community-
3 based attorneys and advocates and culturally specific
4 community-based organizations is most effective in designing
5 programs that meet the legal needs of specific communities;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, in order to reduce domestic violence across the
8 state, it is key to identify gaps in systems designed to
9 protect victims of domestic violence;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the supreme
12 court be requested to convene a statewide task force to:

13 A. assess the current legal services available to
14 victims of domestic violence in New Mexico;

15 B. identify gaps in the available services,
16 especially for victims of domestic violence who are indigent;
17 and

18 C. make recommendations for the design and
19 implementation of cost-effective legal programs to address
20 those gaps; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide task force be
22 composed of a diverse group of members that includes a member
23 from:

24 A. the New Mexico coalition against domestic
25 violence;

1 B. New Mexico legal aid;
2 C. the supreme court's access to justice
3 commission;
4 D. enlace comunitario;
5 E. the university of New Mexico school of law;
6 F. the house of representatives;
7 G. the senate;
8 H. a rural area who is a family court judge; and
9 I. a city with a population greater than fifty
10 thousand people who is a family court judge; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
12 to submit a report of the task force's findings and
13 recommendations to the interim committee dealing with courts,
14 corrections and justice issues and the governor by November
15 1, 2025; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the New Mexico coalition against domestic
18 violence, New Mexico legal aid, the supreme court, enlace
19 comunitario, the university of New Mexico school of law and
20 the state bar of New Mexico.