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HOUSE MEMORIAL 59

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Joanne J. Ferrary and Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson
and Kathleen Cates and Patricia Roybal Caballero
and Pamelya Herndon

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF THE SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL ABUSE TASK
FORCE TO STUDY AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESS
SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL ABUSE.

WHEREAS, alcohol and substance abuse is extremely high in
New Mexico, including on lands of Indian nations, tribes and
pueblos; and

WHEREAS, additional alcohol and substance abuse treatment
and recovery services are desperately needed throughout New
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, legalization of recreational cannabis may be
causing an increase in cannabis addiction or addiction to other
substances; and

WHEREAS, many persons in New Mexico are harmed by spouses
and relatives in need of alcohol and substance abuse services;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, the needs of communities that are
3 disproportionately impacted by excessive alcohol and substance
4 abuse need to be addressed;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature
7 consider creating the "substance and alcohol abuse task force"
8 to study and develop a comprehensive approach to address
9 substance and alcohol abuse; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that
11 the task force be composed of nine members, with the chair
12 appointed by the secretary of health and the other eight
13 members appointed by the majority and minority floor leaders of
14 the house of representatives and the senate; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that
16 the members of the task force:

17 A. have at least one member of an Indian nation,
18 tribe or pueblo located wholly or partially within New Mexico;

19 B. have at least one member with research or
20 practical experience in alcohol harm reduction strategies;

21 C. have substantial expertise in medical and
22 behavioral sciences;

23 D. live and work in various parts of the state so
24 as to provide broad geographical representation; and

25 E. not consist of more than four members of the

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1 same political party; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that
3 the task force be appointed by July 1, 2024 and that the staff
4 for the task force be provided by the department of health; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that
6 public members of the task force receive per diem and mileage
7 as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act and receive no
8 other compensation, perquisite or allowance; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that
10 the task force:

11 A. make recommendations to create innovative
12 policies of prevention and care to improve the health and
13 well-being of New Mexico residents suffering from substance and
14 alcohol addiction;

15 B. study the health disparities and treatment
16 disparities of persons addicted to alcohol and other substances
17 in New Mexico's diverse communities;

18 C. study the health effects of the legalization of
19 recreational cannabis and whether legalization has led to
20 increased cannabis addiction or increased addiction to other
21 substances; and

22 D. collect and analyze data and make
23 recommendations to the legislature regarding incentives to
24 decrease alcohol and substance abuse in the state; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that

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1 annually, no later than November 1, the task force report its
2 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and
3 human services committee; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the chair of the legislative health and human
6 services committee, the secretary of health and the majority
7 and minority floor leaders of the house of representatives and
8 the senate.

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