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SENATE MEMORIAL 18

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

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

WHEREAS, the forty-ninth legislature passed Senate Memorial 33 requesting the university of New Mexico's Robert Wood Johnson foundation center for health policy to create a drug policy task force to evaluate New Mexico's approach to alleviating the negative consequences associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs; and

WHEREAS, the drug policy task force met seven times between June and December of 2010, inviting designees appointed by the New Mexico legislative council; representatives from the office of the governor, the office of the lieutenant governor,

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, the drug policy task force was directed to

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

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

16 WHEREAS, the drug policy task force presented its initial  
17 findings to the interim legislative health and human services  
18 committee, the interim courts, corrections and justice  
19 committee and the legislative finance committee;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
21 OF NEW MEXICO that the university of New Mexico's Robert Wood  
22 Johnson foundation center for health policy be requested to  
23 continue the work of the drug policy task force in order to  
24 complete its comprehensive statewide strategic plan based on  
25 the four pillar approach; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force continue to  
2 evaluate New Mexico's approach to alleviating the negative  
3 consequences associated with the use of alcohol and other  
4 drugs; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its  
6 final comprehensive statewide strategic plan, including  
7 conclusions and recommendations, to the interim legislative  
8 health and human services committee, the legislative finance  
9 committee and other appropriate interim legislative committees  
10 by November 2011; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan and all of  
12 its conclusions and recommendations be made available to other  
13 interested legislative committees, executive agencies and the  
14 public through publication on the center for health policy's  
15 web site; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the director of the Robert Wood Johnson  
18 foundation center for health policy and to each of the agencies  
19 and organizations named in this memorial as participants on the  
20 task force.