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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 65**  
**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001**  
**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Gail C. Beam**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT LEAD A TASK FORCE TO**  
**STUDY THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM FOR**  
**THE MENTALLY ILL.**

**WHEREAS, adults with serious mental health needs lack**  
**necessary support and services to live in their communities;**  
**and**

**WHEREAS, adults with serious mental illness needs are at**  
**risk of institutionalization in hospitals or jails; and**

**WHEREAS, adults with serious mental health needs are at**  
**risk of homelessness, grave neglect and death; and**

**WHEREAS, children and youth with serious mental illness**  
**are at risk of removal from their biological families to**  
**residential treatment, acute hospitalization, therapeutic**  
**foster care, incarceration or sometimes homelessness through**

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1 abandonment by their families; and

2 WHEREAS, children and youth with serious mental health  
3 needs are at risk of suspension and expulsion or becoming  
4 school dropouts; and

5 WHEREAS, some children and youth with severe disabilities  
6 other than mental illness have access to medicaid waiver  
7 services providing them with twenty-four-hour support in homes  
8 in their communities as an alternative to long-term  
9 institutional care provided under the developmental  
10 disabilities medicaid waiver, the disabled and elderly  
11 medicaid waiver, the medically fragile medicaid waiver and the  
12 AIDS medicaid waiver; and

13 WHEREAS, several states have implemented medicaid waiver  
14 services for persons with mental illnesses;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department lead a  
17 task force to study and make recommendations on the  
18 development of a mental health services medicaid waiver for  
19 New Mexico; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include  
21 representation from the department of health, the children,  
22 youth and families department, a statewide alliance for the  
23 mentally ill, an organization of parents with behaviorally  
24 different children and an organization for protection and  
25 advocacy of persons with various disabilities; and

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