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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 5
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001
INTRODUCED BY
Mary Jane Garcia

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
ENDORSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLICLY FUNDED RESIDENTIAL
MENTAL HEALTH CARE CENTER IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO FOR SECURE
TREATMENT OF CHRONICALLY ILL PATIENTS IN NEED OF SHORT- AND
LONG- TERM CARE, AS DETERMINED BY THE DISTRICT COURTS OF NEW
MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the state's only publicly funded mental health
care facility is located in San Miguel county and is usually
filled to capacity; and

WHEREAS, forensic patients in southern New Mexico are
often incarcerated in jail for months without treatment before
being admitted to the facility, and local resources to care
for forensic detainees with severe mental illnesses are
lacking; and

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1 WHEREAS, law enforcement and medical transportation
2 personnel must drive hundreds of miles with patients in
3 restraints to deliver patients to Las Vegas; and

4 WHEREAS, families of the mentally ill must also drive
5 long distances and incur onerous travel and lodging expenses
6 to visit family members whose treatment requires family
7 participation vital to the patient's stabilization and
8 recovery; and

9 WHEREAS, the second largest population area in the state
10 lacks a public facility for the treatment of the severely
11 mentally ill that without proper residential treatment are in
12 many instances a danger to themselves and others; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a great and immediate need for a public
14 mental health center to be established in southern New Mexico
15 that is readily accessible to the courts, patients and their
16 families;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor and the department of
19 health be requested to develop a plan for the establishment in
20 southern New Mexico of a secure residential mental health
21 center for long- and short-term court-ordered treatment; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan and necessary
23 funding for the construction, purchase or lease of a facility
24 be presented to the second session of the forty-fifth
25 legislature; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the governor and the secretary of health.

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