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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 62

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Kandy Cordova

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN COOPERATION WITH THE
GAMING CONTROL BOARD TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE COST AND IMPACT
OF PROBLEM GAMBLING AND GAMBLING ADDICTION ON THE STATE OF NEW
MEXICO AND ITS CITIZENS.**

**WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico approved a state-run
lottery in 1996 and casino and slot machine gambling in 1997;
and**

**WHEREAS, in approving gambling, the state required that a
portion of the gaming revenues received from tribal casino and
racetrack gambling be spent on prevention and treatment of
problem gambling and gambling addiction; and**

**WHEREAS, the department of health and the university of
New Mexico completed a study of gambling-related problems in**

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1 1996; and

2 WHEREAS, based on a questionnaire, the study determined
3 that there were over forty thousand "serious problem gamblers"
4 in New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, the findings of the study did not result in any
6 new funding for the treatment of problem gambling and gambling
7 addiction; and

8 WHEREAS, there has been no recent effort to study the
9 impact of problem gambling and gambling addiction in New
10 Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, the gaming control board and numerous other
12 organizations with an interest in problem gambling have formed
13 an alliance to serve as a focal point for the evaluation
14 of resources directed to the prevention and treatment of
15 problem gambling; and

16 WHEREAS, Indian tribes operating gaming facilities in
17 accordance with contracts signed with the state of New Mexico
18 have agreed to expend certain sums on gaming education and
19 prevention; and

20 WHEREAS, a statewide alliance of New Mexico gaming tribes
21 has been formed to work with the state and other entities on
22 gaming-related issues; and

23 WHEREAS, though the department of health is not a member
24 of this alliance, it does play a significant role in the
25 prevention and treatment of other addictions;

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