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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 48

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

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT DEVELOP A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE ISSUES REGARDING THE INCARCERATION OF FEMALE INMATES AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, the female inmate population continues to increase, as it approaches six hundred inmates at the women's correctional facility in Grants; and

WHEREAS, recidivism rates for female inmates are also on the rise, driven principally by drug use and drug addiction; and

WHEREAS, in order to address increasing incarceration and recidivism rates, it is advisable that there be a review of policies, procedures, services and programs attendant to the incarceration of female inmates; and

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1 WHEREAS, the review should include consideration of
2 classification polices and procedures, the use of
3 administration segregation, policies and procedures for
4 protecting female inmates from sexual assault and harassment,
5 adequacy of medical and mental health services and polices and
6 procedures concerning parole planning for female inmates;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections department be
9 requested to develop a task force to examine issues set forth
10 in this memorial regarding the incarceration of female
11 inmates; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the warden of the women's
13 correctional facility in Grants, a representative of
14 corrections corporation of America, a representative of the
15 New Mexico women's justice project, incorporated, a
16 representative of the office of the attorney general, a
17 representative of the public defender department, a district
18 court judge, a representative of the office of health services
19 of the corrections department and a representative of the
20 classification office of the corrections department be invited
21 to participate on the task force; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force prepare a
23 written report of its findings and report its findings to an
24 appropriate legislative interim committee prior to November 1,
25 2002; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the warden of the women's correctional facility in Grants, corrections corporation of America, the New Mexico women's justice project, incorporated, the attorney general, the chief public defender, the district judge's association and the secretary of corrections.