

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT AND
3 THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP
4 CONSISTING OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN STUDENT ATHLETICS AND YOUTH
5 SPORTS ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS PROFESSIONALS WHO TREAT YOUTH
6 SPORTS-RELATED INJURIES, TO STUDY AND EVALUATE THE CONCEPT
7 AND POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF CREATING A YOUTH SPORTS COMMISSION
8 IN NEW MEXICO.

9
10 WHEREAS, thousands of New Mexico's young people,
11 including student athletes and youth sports participants, as
12 well as their parents and other family members, participate
13 and are involved in a vast array of organized sports and
14 athletic activities throughout the state; and

15 WHEREAS, preserving the popularity and participation in
16 student athletics and youth sports builds strong community
17 connections and benefits the young people involved, both
18 physically and socially, by increasing their levels of
19 physical activity and social interaction; and

20 WHEREAS, area hospitals have indicated a rise in the
21 treatment of young athletes for injuries sustained as a
22 consequence of sports-related activities; and

23 WHEREAS, a survey and review of the procedures and
24 protocols currently in place in New Mexico's student
25 athletics programs and youth sports activities, in

1 conjunction with the development of a database for the
2 information collected, could help in efforts to find ways to
3 make student athletics and youth sports activities safer for
4 young participants; and

5 WHEREAS, the unfortunate recent news reports regarding
6 alleged abuses of student athletes and youth sports
7 participants have brought public awareness of the vital need
8 to protect student athletes and youth sports participants;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, student athletes and youth sports participants
11 are under the instruction and supervision of numerous
12 coaches, volunteers and other individuals, the vast majority
13 of whom donate their time and talents in a manner that
14 elevates the experiences of young athletes participating in
15 student athletics and youth sports activities; and

16 WHEREAS, no student athlete or youth sports participant
17 should ever be subjected to verbal, physical or sexual abuse;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, student athletes and youth sports participants
20 should have access to a proper channel for reporting
21 inappropriate behaviors or contact by persons involved in
22 student athletics and youth sports activities; and

23 WHEREAS, developing a reporting mechanism for student
24 athletes and youth sports participants to report instances of
25 abuse is critically important in protecting student athletes

1 and youth sports participants;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families
4 department and the department of health be requested to
5 convene a working group to study and evaluate the concept and
6 potential benefits of creating a youth sports commission in
7 New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, along with representatives
9 from the children, youth and families department and the
10 department of health, the working group should be composed of
11 one or more representatives from the:

12 A. university of New Mexico health sciences
13 center;

14 B. New Mexico medical society;

15 C. New Mexico pediatric society;

16 D. New Mexico athletic trainers association;

17 E. New Mexico activities association;

18 F. young America football league;

19 G. young America cheerleading;

20 H. American youth soccer association;

21 I. youth baseball little league association; and

22 J. other groups involved with student athletics

23 and youth sports activities, including junior wrestling,
24 boxing and swimming as well as other sports activities deemed
25 appropriate to be represented; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be asked
2 to provide guidance and recommendations for adoption by
3 student athletics programs and youth sports activities
4 regarding a process to utilize background checks, acquire
5 proper insurance, adopt codes of conduct and implement coach
6 and volunteer training processes focused on enhancing youth
7 sports; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be asked
9 to collaborate with other appropriate groups or individuals to
10 share resources, conduct and provide research and make
11 recommendations regarding the concept and potential benefits
12 of creating a youth sports commission in New Mexico; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group present
14 its findings and recommendations to the interim legislative
15 health and human services committee no later than
16 November 1, 2013, with a focus on determining whether a
17 New Mexico youth sports commission would benefit youth sports
18 and athletics in the state; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families,
21 the secretary of health and the chair and vice chair of the
22 interim legislative health and human services committee. _____