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SENATE MEMORIAL 33

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Jacob Candelaria

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE INTERAGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PURCHASING COLLABORATIVE AND ITS CONSTITUENT AGENCIES MAXIMIZE NEW MEXICO'S ACCESS TO FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR THE STATE'S MENTAL HEALTH, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, New Mexicans face a persistent epidemic of mental and behavioral health challenges, including substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2012 final report of the drug policy task force established pursuant to the 2011 legislative session's Senate Memorial 18, the combined costs to New Mexico for medical disorders, trauma, physical property damage, criminal and judicial expenses and losses in productivity associated with New Mexico's mental and behavioral health

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1 crisis exceed two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) a year; and

2 WHEREAS, the federal substance abuse and mental health  
3 services administration of the United States department of  
4 health and human services, also known as "SAMHSA", estimates  
5 that mental, emotional and behavioral disorders among youth in  
6 the United States, as a whole, represent a total annual cost of  
7 two hundred forty-seven billion dollars (\$247,000,000,000) to  
8 the nation's economy; and

9 WHEREAS, a 2012 report by the federal office of national  
10 drug policy finds that each one dollar (\$1.00) invested in an  
11 evidence-based prevention program can reduce costs related to  
12 substance abuse disorders by an average of eighteen dollars  
13 (\$18.00); and

14 WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable  
15 Care Act, also known as the "Affordable Care Act", contains  
16 provisions to strengthen mental health, behavioral health and  
17 substance abuse prevention and treatment services; and

18 WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act provisions related to  
19 mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse prevention  
20 and treatment services include provisions for health care work  
21 force training and preparation, for health care system  
22 innovations and for increasing access to, and improving the  
23 quality and the cost of, mental health, behavioral health and  
24 substance abuse prevention and treatment services; and

25 WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act provides a number of

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1 funding opportunities for states to develop their mental  
2 health, behavioral health and substance abuse prevention and  
3 treatment services infrastructure and systems; and

4 WHEREAS, in particular, the Affordable Care Act provided  
5 for eighty-eight million dollars (\$88,000,000) in funding to  
6 SAMHSA for federal fiscal years 2011 and 2012 through the  
7 federal prevention and public health fund to support SAMHSA's  
8 grants to states for mental health, behavioral health and  
9 substance abuse prevention and treatment services  
10 infrastructure and systems; and

11 WHEREAS, President Obama submitted a budget request of one  
12 hundred five million dollars (\$105,000,000) from the federal  
13 prevention and public health fund for federal fiscal year 2013  
14 to support SAMHSA's grants to states for mental health,  
15 behavioral health and substance abuse prevention and treatment  
16 services infrastructure and systems; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico has availed itself of very little of  
18 the federal money available to support states' mental health,  
19 behavioral health and substance abuse prevention and treatment  
20 services infrastructure and systems; and

21 WHEREAS, though SAMHSA's center for substance use  
22 prevention had a total budget of forty-eight million four  
23 hundred thousand dollars (\$48,400,000) in federal fiscal year  
24 2012, New Mexico received none of the four grants available  
25 through the center for that year; and

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1           WHEREAS, in federal fiscal year 2012, SAMHSA's center for  
2 mental health services had a total budget of one hundred fifty-  
3 six million one hundred thousand dollars (\$156,100,000) and  
4 provided grants to states that totaled a maximum of forty-four  
5 million four hundred thousand dollars (\$44,400,000) each, and  
6 New Mexico received three out of the fifteen grants; and

7           WHEREAS, in federal fiscal year 2012, while SAMHSA's  
8 center for substance abuse treatment had a total budget of one  
9 hundred seven million one hundred thousand dollars  
10 (\$107,100,000) and the center provided sixteen grants with a  
11 reported maximum amount of twenty-five million eight hundred  
12 thousand dollars (\$25,800,000) apiece to state grantees, New  
13 Mexico received none of the sixteen grants; and

14           WHEREAS, in all, New Mexico received only approximately  
15 one-half of one percent, or one million seven hundred thousand  
16 dollars (\$1,700,000), of the three hundred eleven million seven  
17 hundred thousand dollars (\$311,700,000) in SAMHSA's center for  
18 substance abuse prevention, center for mental health services  
19 and center for substance abuse treatment center available  
20 grants; and

21           WHEREAS, New Mexico agencies urgently need to avail  
22 themselves of whatever funding opportunities exist to address  
23 the state's mental health and behavioral health crisis,  
24 including its status among the states worst hit by substance  
25 abuse;

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1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
2 OF NEW MEXICO that the interagency behavioral health purchasing  
3 collaborative and its constituent agencies be requested to take  
4 urgent action to research and apply for any and all federal  
5 grants for mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse  
6 prevention and treatment services infrastructure and systems;  
7 and

8           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency behavioral  
9 health purchasing collaborative be requested to work with the  
10 human services department's office of health care reform to  
11 poll the state agencies that belong to the interagency  
12 behavioral health purchasing collaborative to learn which of  
13 those agencies has applied for federal grants for mental  
14 health, behavioral health and substance abuse prevention and  
15 treatment services infrastructure and systems and, by November  
16 1, 2014, report to the governor, the legislative finance  
17 committee and the interim legislative health and human services  
18 committee on the following:

- 19           A. any applications that these state agencies have  
20 made for federal grants;
- 21           B. any allocations that the federal government has  
22 made to state agencies;
- 23           C. which federal grant applications were denied and  
24 the reasons for the denials; and
- 25           D. state agencies' explanations for not applying

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1 for federal grants for which they are eligible; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the governor, the director of the interagency  
4 behavioral health purchasing collaborative and the secretary of  
5 human services.

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