

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE NEW MEXICO
3 MORTGAGE FINANCE AUTHORITY AND OTHERS TO IDENTIFY STRATEGIES
4 TO COORDINATE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR THE
5 HOMELESS AND TO IDENTIFY AND REPORT ON GAPS IN HOUSING AND
6 SERVICES.

7
8 WHEREAS, people who experience homelessness in
9 New Mexico include families with children, people who are
10 working at low-wage jobs, people suffering from mental
11 illness, those with substance abuse problems, migrant
12 workers, runaway teens, victims of domestic violence and
13 veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, the New Mexico coalition to end homelessness
15 estimates that there are at least seventeen thousand people
16 in New Mexico who experience homelessness over the course of
17 a year; and

18 WHEREAS, providing housing resources to people who are
19 homeless is a vital and important goal; and

20 WHEREAS, a 2013 university of New Mexico study showed
21 that providing supportive housing and services to medically
22 vulnerable people experiencing homelessness resulted in a
23 savings of over twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) per year
24 per person when compared to the costs to government and
25 health care services used by the same people living outside

1 or in shelters; and

2 WHEREAS, supportive housing programs throughout
3 New Mexico have proven to be very effective at helping
4 homeless individuals and families obtain and maintain
5 permanent housing; and

6 WHEREAS, initiatives such as the New Mexico coordinated
7 assessment work to ensure that people experiencing
8 homelessness are directed to the most appropriate housing
9 resource as quickly as possible using a common assessment
10 tool, a community prioritization system and a centralized
11 database; and

12 WHEREAS, initiatives such as Albuquerque heading home
13 have shown that providing permanent supportive housing to
14 medically vulnerable, chronically homeless people using the
15 housing first model is cost-effective and has proven to help
16 people exit homelessness permanently; and

17 WHEREAS, the New Mexico mortgage finance authority
18 supports housing programs for the homeless throughout
19 New Mexico and the development of new supportive housing
20 through the federal low-income housing tax credit program;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the human services department's linkages
23 program provides state-funded permanent, supportive housing
24 based on the housing first model; and

25 WHEREAS, coordination of these various efforts would

1 lead to a more strategic and effective response to
2 homelessness in New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, medicaid expansion has the potential to ensure
4 that people experiencing homelessness have access to needed
5 behavioral health and medical services;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department, the
8 New Mexico mortgage finance authority, the New Mexico
9 coalition to end homelessness and Albuquerque heading home be
10 requested to identify strategies to coordinate resources to
11 more efficiently house people who are homeless; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these entities identify a
13 strategy for using medicaid, linkages, the statewide
14 coordinated assessment system, the Albuquerque heading home
15 model, the low-income housing tax credit program and other
16 successful supportive housing programs to most effectively
17 address homelessness in New Mexico; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these entities identify gaps
19 in the availability of housing and services for people
20 experiencing homelessness; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these entities provide a
22 report of the strategies identified and other findings to the
23 legislative health and human services committee by
24 November 1, 2015; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the executive
2 director of the New Mexico mortgage finance authority, the
3 executive director of the New Mexico coalition to end
4 homelessness and the chief executive officer of Albuquerque
5 heading home. _____

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25