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SENATE MEMORIAL 4

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE NEW MEXICO'S CURRENT APPROACH TO COMMUNITY-BASED PREVENTION OF SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATHS AND TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH PREVENTION.

WHEREAS, sudden unexpected infant death, including sudden infant death syndrome, is the leading cause of infant deaths after the first month of life in the United States and New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, about four thousand infants die each year of sudden unexpected infant death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, over one hundred deaths from sudden unexpected infant death occurred between 2009 and 2013; and

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1           WHEREAS, the vast majority of sudden unexpected infant  
2 deaths occur before the victims' fourth month of life; and

3           WHEREAS, national data show little decline in sudden  
4 unexpected infant deaths since 2000; and

5           WHEREAS, new evidence suggests that environmental risk  
6 factors may contribute to sudden unexpected infant death; and

7           WHEREAS, these risk factors include unsafe sleeping  
8 surfaces and shared beds; and

9           WHEREAS, the United States centers for disease control and  
10 prevention has provided a grant to the state department of  
11 health's office of injury prevention to aid the department in  
12 collaboration with the office of the state medical investigator  
13 in case registry and standardized collection of information  
14 related to circumstances in which infant deaths occur; and

15           WHEREAS, the office of the state medical investigator has  
16 made significant efforts to train death scene investigators,  
17 and those efforts have yielded improved and important evidence  
18 about sudden unexpected infant death in New Mexico, including  
19 findings consistent with extensive research primarily  
20 associating sudden unexpected infant death with unsafe sleeping  
21 arrangements; and

22           WHEREAS, partnership among New Mexico state agencies is  
23 necessary to collaborate and coordinate efforts to support  
24 prevention of sudden unexpected infant death through home  
25 visiting programs; and

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1           WHEREAS, by uniting strengths, resources and knowledge  
2 across the public and private health sectors' community-based  
3 programs, reduction in sudden unexpected infant death can be  
4 achieved with minimal changes to current service delivery  
5 models;

6           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
7 OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of health be requested to  
8 convene a task force to evaluate the state's approach to  
9 community-based sudden unexpected infant death prevention and  
10 recommend effective changes to the state's approach; and

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of health be  
12 requested to invite leadership from the New Mexico senate and  
13 the New Mexico house of representatives, the department of  
14 health, the human services department, the children, youth and  
15 families department, the Indian affairs department, the  
16 department of public safety, universities and colleges involved  
17 in training of prenatal and postnatal health care providers,  
18 the federal Indian health service, tribal infant health and  
19 injury prevention programs, interested members of the public,  
20 the New Mexico pediatric society and health care delivery  
21 organizations; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
23 meet regularly to examine community awareness of the risks  
24 posed by unsafe infant sleeping conditions, to examine  
25 approaches for supporting families and care providers in

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1 protecting newborn infants from sudden unexpected infant death  
2 and to explore issues related to families' access to and use of  
3 safe sleeping equipment such as cribs; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sudden unexpected infant  
5 death prevention task force be requested to provide a  
6 comprehensive written report and present its findings and  
7 recommendations to the legislative health and human services  
8 committee by November 2015; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sudden unexpected infant  
10 death task force be requested to include in its report a  
11 description of those organizations in the state that provide  
12 prenatal, delivery and immediate postnatal services for  
13 pregnant women in New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
15 include in its report a section on current approaches to  
16 raising awareness of sudden unexpected infant death for  
17 professionals and families, including the number and location  
18 of people reached, a detailed list of expenditures in raising  
19 awareness, information on outreach and education practices and  
20 recommendations, such as a public dissemination forum, for  
21 raising awareness of sudden unexpected infant death; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
23 include in its report a section on current and recommended  
24 statewide and local public outreach and education on sudden  
25 unexpected infant death; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
2 include in its report a section on currently available  
3 community-based sudden unexpected infant death prevention  
4 programming at the state and local level; access to and  
5 participation in current programming; an evaluation of this  
6 programming's effectiveness; a local and statewide needs  
7 assessment; and recommendations for effective change; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
9 include in its report a section on evaluation measures for  
10 sudden unexpected infant death prevention programs tracked by  
11 the department of health and other state agencies, with public  
12 accessibility to data that may assist in obtaining funds and  
13 recommendations for effective change; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sudden unexpected infant  
15 death prevention task force be requested in its report to place  
16 special emphasis on raising awareness about risks of unsafe  
17 sleeping arrangements, increasing access to evidence-based  
18 community programming, and establishing short- and long-term  
19 recommendations to reduce sudden unexpected infant deaths by  
20 implementing cost-effective measures; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the governor, the president pro tempore of the  
23 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the  
24 secretary of health, the secretary of human services, the  
25 secretary of children, youth and families, the secretary of

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Indian affairs and the secretary of public safety.

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