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SENATE MEMORIAL 79

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUTH AND ADULTS IN NEW MEXICO WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder is the name for a group of serious neurodevelopmental disorders that impair a person's ability to communicate and interact with others; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder also includes restricted, repetitive behaviors, interests and activities, and these issues cause significant impairment in social, occupational and other areas of functioning; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has partnered with state agencies and groups to make significant progress in developing and implementing programs for children with autism spectrum

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1 disorder; and

2 WHEREAS, there are not yet specific programs in New Mexico
3 to meet the needs of adults with autism spectrum disorder; and

4 WHEREAS, there is a need for state agencies and other
5 interested parties to study ways to develop and implement
6 programs for older youth and adults with autism spectrum
7 disorder;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
9 OF NEW MEXICO that the autism programs at the university of New
10 Mexico center for development and disability be requested to
11 convene a task force to study ways to develop and implement
12 programs for older youth and adults with autism spectrum
13 disorder; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
15 develop an action plan to determine funding priorities for
16 youth and adults with autism spectrum disorder that uses
17 applied behavioral analysis and other evidence-based
18 interventions that result in:

19 A. a new medicaid behavioral health benefit
20 specifically for adults with autism spectrum disorder;

21 B. a plan for developing in-state resources and
22 procedures for youth with autism spectrum disorder;

23 C. development of expedited developmental
24 disabilities waiver criteria for youth and adults discharging
25 from residential treatment; and

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1 D. development of programs for youth and adults who
2 do not meet the criteria for the developmental disabilities
3 waiver; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the director of the autism
5 programs at the university of New Mexico center for development
6 and disability be requested to include participants in the task
7 force from the department of health; the human services
8 department; the children, youth and families department; the
9 public education department; the developmental disabilities
10 planning council; centennial care managed care organizations;
11 the New Mexico autism society; the New Mexico association for
12 behavior analysis; and disability rights New Mexico; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also be
14 requested to include participation from families of adults with
15 autism spectrum disorder, self-advocates and other appropriate
16 entities; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
18 present its recommendations to the legislative health and human
19 services committee and the legislative finance committee by
20 November 30, 2017; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the president of the university of New Mexico;
23 the director of the autism programs of the university of New
24 Mexico center for development and disability; the secretary of
25 health; the secretary of human services; the secretary of

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1 children, youth and families; the secretary of public
2 education; the developmental disabilities planning council;
3 centennial care managed care organizations; the New Mexico
4 autism society; the New Mexico association for behavior
5 analysis; disability rights New Mexico; the chair of the
6 legislative health and human services department; and the chair
7 of the legislative finance committee.

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