

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR TO  
3 WORK WITH THE GRIEF RESOURCE CENTER AND OTHERS TO DEVELOP A  
4 FINANCIAL AND CARE PROPOSAL THAT INCLUDES CRITERIA NECESSARY  
5 TO MEET THE GRIEF COUNSELING NEEDS OF NEW MEXICO COMMUNITIES.  
6

7 WHEREAS, grief counseling following a tragic loss is a  
8 vital resource to New Mexico families; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico families, like other families across  
10 the country, benefit from grief counseling in times of loss  
11 and despair; and

12 WHEREAS, various counseling centers in the state have  
13 recently closed their doors, leaving a serious void to fill  
14 in this area; and

15 WHEREAS, the office of the state medical investigator at  
16 the university of New Mexico provides grief counseling but  
17 has also lost essential funding, and the office now has only  
18 one grief counselor available, along with an internship  
19 program that provides secondary support under the supervision  
20 of a licensed counselor; and

21 WHEREAS, between 2014 and 2017, there were five hundred  
22 sixty homicides in New Mexico, and sixty-two percent of the  
23 families of those homicide victims sought intensive  
24 counseling services provided by the office of the state  
25 medical investigator; and

1           WHEREAS, between 2014 and 2017, the office of the state  
2 medical investigator has recorded one thousand three hundred  
3 fifty suicides and four thousand six hundred sixty-seven  
4 accidental deaths, and the office has been unable to provide  
5 services to the families of those victims due to the shortage  
6 of counselors; and

7           WHEREAS, the grief counseling community, such as the  
8 grief resource center, recognizes the need to collaborate  
9 with the office of the state medical investigator to maximize  
10 grief counseling resources for families and individuals that  
11 have experienced the death of loved ones; and

12           WHEREAS, these collaborative efforts also provide  
13 training to first responders, funeral directors and hospice  
14 personnel so they may also better serve the grief community;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, it is imperative to the health and social  
17 welfare of New Mexicans that proper resources and funding be  
18 committed to grief counseling in the state;

19           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of  
21 the state medical investigator be requested to work with the  
22 grief resource center and all other relevant stakeholders to  
23 develop a financial and care proposal that includes the  
24 criteria that are necessary to meet the grief counseling  
25 needs of New Mexico communities; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of the state  
2 medical investigator be requested to report its findings to  
3 the interim legislative health and human services committee  
4 by November 1, 2018; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the office of the state medical investigator  
7 and the grief resource center.

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