

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT AND THE WORKFORCE
3 SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY AND DETERMINE WAYS
4 IN WHICH RECENTLY RELEASED INMATES CAN BE BETTER SUPPORTED IN
5 THEIR EFFORTS TO REJOIN SOCIETY AND AVOID RECIDIVISM.

6
7 WHEREAS, as of February 1, 2019, there were six thousand
8 two hundred ninety-five men and seven hundred seventy-four
9 women incarcerated in New Mexico state correctional
10 facilities; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2018, an average of sixty-five inmates were
12 released from incarceration each week in New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, in May 2018, Bernalillo county opened a new
14 resource re-entry center to assist recently released inmates,
15 but that center serves only inmates being released from the
16 Bernalillo county metropolitan detention center; and

17 WHEREAS, there are insufficient housing and support
18 services to assist former inmates upon their release from
19 incarceration; and

20 WHEREAS, former inmates have limited resources upon
21 their release from incarceration, and they may be released on
22 the street without the means to make their way to
23 transitional housing; and

24 WHEREAS, there are businesses that are willing to
25 provide employment opportunities for recently released

1 inmates, but there is an insufficient network to enable
2 former inmates to find suitable employment; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the second-highest recidivism
4 rate in the country, with one-half of its former inmates
5 landing back behind prison bars within three years; and

6 WHEREAS, the availability of transitional housing,
7 mental health and substance abuse counseling, support
8 services and employment opportunities will help to reduce
9 rates of recidivism;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
12 corrections department and the workforce solutions department
13 be requested to undertake a feasibility study during the 2019
14 interim of what steps can be taken to assist newly released
15 inmates to find transitional housing and employment and to
16 successfully reintegrate into society, thereby reducing the
17 rate of recidivism; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of corrections
19 and the secretary of workforce solutions present their
20 recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative
21 committees by October 1, 2019; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of corrections, the secretary of
24 workforce solutions and the co-chairs of the New Mexico
25 legislative council.
