

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 34

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

Pamelya Herndon

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SUPREME COURT TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE GAPS IN LEGAL SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COST-EFFECTIVE LEGAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THOSE GAPS.

WHEREAS, the center for court innovation has found that providing a combination of resources to victims of domestic violence, from full legal representation and limited-scope legal services to non-legal advice and assistance, is most effective in meeting the wide array of domestic violence victims' needs; and

WHEREAS, the United States department of justice's office of justice programs has found that a victim of domestic violence who is able to obtain a permanent protection order is eighty percent less likely to be a victim of a future instance

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 of domestic violence; and

2 WHEREAS, access to targeted legal services increases a  
3 victim's ability to obtain permanent protection orders; and

4 WHEREAS, the center for court innovation has determined  
5 that legal support at various key stages of a court case,  
6 including for post-issuance modification and enforcement of  
7 orders, can make a tremendous difference in the ultimate  
8 outcome of family court cases involving domestic violence; and

9 WHEREAS, a cross-system collaboration among many  
10 stakeholders, judicial officers, court personnel, community-  
11 based attorneys and advocates and culturally specific  
12 community-based organizations is most effective in designing  
13 programs that meet the legal needs of specific communities; and

14 WHEREAS, in order to reduce domestic violence across the  
15 state, it is key to identify gaps in systems designed to  
16 protect victims of domestic violence;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the supreme  
19 court be requested to convene a statewide task force to:

20 A. assess the current legal services available to  
21 victims of domestic violence in New Mexico;

22 B. identify gaps in the available services,  
23 especially for victims of domestic violence who are indigent;  
24 and

25 C. make recommendations for the design and

.230528.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 implementation of cost-effective legal programs to address  
2 those gaps; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide task force be  
4 composed of a diverse group of members that includes a member  
5 from:

6 A. the New Mexico coalition against domestic  
7 violence;

8 B. New Mexico legal aid;

9 C. the supreme court's access to justice  
10 commission;

11 D. enlace comunitario;

12 E. the university of New Mexico school of law;

13 F. the house of representatives;

14 G. the senate;

15 H. a rural area who is a family court judge; and

16 I. a city with a population greater than fifty  
17 thousand people who is a family court judge; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
19 submit a report of the task force's findings and  
20 recommendations to the interim committee dealing with courts,  
21 corrections and justice issues and the governor by November 1,  
22 2025; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the New Mexico coalition against domestic  
25 violence, New Mexico legal aid, the supreme court, enlace

.230528.1

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 comunitario, the university of New Mexico school of law and the  
2 state bar of New Mexico.

3 - 4 -  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25