

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane Garcia

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
ENDORSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLICLY FUNDED RESIDENTIAL
MENTAL HEALTH CARE CENTER IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO FOR SECURE
TREATMENT OF CHRONICALLY ILL PATIENTS IN NEED OF SHORT- AND
LONG-TERM CARE, AS DETERMINED BY THE DISTRICT COURTS OF NEW
MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the state's only publicly funded mental health
care facility is located in San Miguel county, and is usually
filled to capacity; and

WHEREAS, forensic patients in southern New Mexico are
often incarcerated in jail for months without treatment
before being admitted to the facility, and local resources to
care for forensic detainees with severe mental illness are
lacking; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement and medical transportation

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1 personnel must drive hundreds of miles with patients in
2 restraints to deliver patients to Las Vegas; and

3 WHEREAS, families of the mentally ill must also drive
4 long distances and incur onerous travel and lodging expenses
5 to visit family members whose treatment requires family
6 participation vital to the patient's stabilization and
7 recovery; and

8 WHEREAS, the second largest population area in the state
9 lacks a public facility for the treatment of the severely
10 mentally ill that without proper residential treatment are in
11 many instances a danger to themselves and others; and

12 WHEREAS, there is a great and immediate need for a
13 public mental health center to be established in southern New
14 Mexico that is readily accessible to the courts, patients and
15 their families;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor and the department of
18 health be requested to develop a plan for the establishment
19 in southern New Mexico of a secure residential mental health
20 center for long- and short-term court-ordered treatment; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan and necessary
22 funding for the construction, purchase or lease of a facility
23 be presented to the first session of the forty-fifth
24 legislature; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
transmitted to the governor and the secretary of health.

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