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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 26

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Ruiz

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE ON
EMPLOYMENT TO EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY EMPLOYMENT
SERVICES FOR NEW MEXICANS WITH DISABILITIES.**

**WHEREAS, there are more than two hundred five thousand New
Mexicans of working age with disabilities, and more than
seventy percent of them are unemployed; and**

**WHEREAS, all New Mexicans are entitled to an opportunity
to be gainfully employed and to contribute to society, their
community and their personal well-being; and**

**WHEREAS, our society places a high value on work, but does
not provide adequate accessibility for persons with
disabilities to participate in the workforce; and**

WHEREAS, persons with disabilities often face significant

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1 barriers in accessing meaningful and gainful employment
2 opportunities because the support services that many persons
3 with disabilities need to participate in the workforce are
4 lacking; and

5 WHEREAS, there exist employment services that can offer
6 proven, effective support services to persons with disabilities
7 who seek to actively participate in employment opportunities;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, employed persons with disabilities contribute
10 significantly to the state's economy and tax base; and

11 WHEREAS, effective and efficient government promotes
12 partnerships and collaboration among state agencies and the
13 private sector to ensure the effective use of resources;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the labor department be requested to
16 develop an employment task force that will develop a
17 cooperative employment initiative for persons with
18 disabilities; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that representatives of the
20 department of health, the division of vocational rehabilitation
21 of the state department of public education, the developmental
22 disabilities planning council, the human services department,
23 the governor's committee on the concerns of the handicapped,
24 the commission for the blind, the commission for deaf and hard-
25 of-hearing persons, the state agency on aging, the Indian

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1 behavioral health council, the governor's mental health
2 planning council, the social security administration, the
3 advisory council to the long-term care and restorative services
4 division of the department of health known as the supported
5 employment council, employer groups that advocate employment
6 opportunities for persons with disabilities, providers of
7 services to persons with disabilities and organizations that
8 advocate for persons with disabilities, and persons with
9 disabilities who are seeking or receiving employment services
10 and family members of those persons be invited to participate
11 on the task force; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
13 prepare a report identifying the barriers, problems and
14 recommendations for the creation of a coordinated
15 infrastructure system to provide significantly more employment
16 services to persons with disabilities; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
18 findings to an appropriate interim committee of the legislature
19 prior to the second session of the forty-fifth legislature; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the secretaries of labor and health and human
22 services, the superintendent of public instruction, the
23 developmental disabilities planning council, the governor's
24 committee on the concerns of the handicapped, the commission
25 for the blind, the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing

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1 persons, the state agency on aging, the Indian behavioral
2 health council, the governor's mental health planning council
3 and the social security administration.

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