

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 31

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

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FOR THE CORRECTIONS OVERSIGHT AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE CONTINUE ITS WORK ON ADDRESSING
THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS.

WHEREAS, annually, at least five thousand New Mexico
children have a parent or both parents in prison; and

WHEREAS, these children are six to eight times more likely
to be incarcerated themselves later in their lives; and

WHEREAS, the majority of families caring for these
children are living below the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, many of these children experience serious
behavioral problems, but these problems are seldom identified
and the children rarely receive necessary services; and

WHEREAS, often these children and families qualify for
benefits but receive them only on occasion; and

WHEREAS, being the child of an incarcerated parent is not

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1 a crime but these children are often neglected; and

2 WHEREAS, pursuant to Senate Joint Memorial 15 of the 2003
3 regular legislative session, a task force began work on
4 creating a plan to address the needs of children of
5 incarcerated parents; and

6 WHEREAS, in order to better develop plans for identifying
7 children of incarcerated parents and to further develop an
8 interdepartmental plan for serving those children, the task
9 force wants to continue its work during the 2004 interim;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families
12 department and the human services department continue to
13 convene a task force to develop a plan for identifying children
14 of incarcerated parents and to develop an interdepartmental
15 plan to address the needs of those children; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include a
17 representative from the department of health, the public
18 education department, the corrections department, the state
19 agency on aging, the public defender department, a statewide
20 association of district court judges, a state law enforcement
21 agency, a local law enforcement agency, a statewide association
22 of district attorneys, an entity that provides caregiver
23 services for children and families and an entity that is an
24 advocate for children and families, as well as a representative
25 from the law enforcement advisory committee of the New Mexico

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1 association of counties who is a detention administrator; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop a
3 system for identifying and inventorying needs and services and
4 the barriers to accessing those services; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop a
6 coordinated system of evaluation and intake for all children of
7 incarcerated parents; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop an
9 integrated plan of service delivery, budgeting, performance
10 measures and accountability; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
12 progress and recommendations to the interim corrections
13 oversight and justice committee and the interim legislative
14 health and human services committee no later than November 1,
15 2004; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the children, youth and families department, the
18 human services department, the department of health, the public
19 education department, the corrections department, a statewide
20 association of district court judges, state law enforcement
21 agencies, local law enforcement agencies, a statewide
22 association of district attorneys, caregivers for children and
23 families, advocates for children and families and the law
24 enforcement advisory committee of the New Mexico association of
25 counties.

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