

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION  
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY POSSIBLE CORRELATIONS BETWEEN  
ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS AND TO  
RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS ANY CORRELATION.

WHEREAS, the federal food and drug administration issued  
a public warning in October 2004 about an increased risk of  
suicidal thoughts or behaviors in children and adolescents  
treated with a class of antidepressant medications called  
selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, an advisory committee to the federal  
food and drug administration recommended that the federal food  
and drug administration issue a public warning about an  
increased risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors in young  
adults up to the age of twenty-five who are taking selective  
serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and

WHEREAS, in September 2007, a study, published in the  
*American Journal of Psychiatry*, found that there is not a  
positive correlation between antidepressants and suicidal  
thoughts or behaviors in young people; and

WHEREAS, studies and professional organizations disagree  
as to whether the prescription of antidepressant medications  
should be further regulated or further protocols developed to  
guard against suicidal thoughts or behaviors among young

people; and

WHEREAS, according to the treatment for adolescents with depression study, funded by the national institute of mental health, a combination of medication and psychotherapy is the most effective treatment for adolescents with depression; and

WHEREAS, the federal food and drug administration has issued guidelines stating that individuals who take antidepressants must be carefully monitored for worsening depression, suicidal thoughts or suicidal behaviors; and

WHEREAS, on the basis that some physicians are inadequately monitoring or are unaware of the risks that antidepressants may pose for young people, the state of California has considered legislation that would require all family practice physicians who treat depression by prescribing antidepressants to undergo mandatory continuing medical education on the subject of antidepressant medications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy commission be requested to convene a task force comprising experts from the human services department and the department of health; medical and behavioral health providers; behavioral health providers with extensive experience in children's behavioral health; and other health care and health policy experts to review available data and consult national experts to review relevant regulatory and statutory issues

related to a potential correlation between antidepressant drugs and suicidal thoughts and behaviors and to recommend policy solutions specific to New Mexico to address the correlation, if it exists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to examine whether providers who prescribe antidepressants should be required to undergo mandatory continuing medical education on the subject of antidepressant medications in order to provide expertise in monitoring the risks that may be associated with antidepressants in young people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico health policy commission.