

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP
3 TO ASSESS THE PREVALENCE AND PRACTICE OF EFFORTS TO CHANGE
4 THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR GENDER EXPRESSION
5 CHANGE EFFORTS IN NEW MEXICO.

6
7 WHEREAS, "conversion" or "reparative" therapy is a
8 practice that attempts to change the sexual orientation,
9 gender identity or gender orientation of homosexual or
10 transgendered minors; and

11 WHEREAS, according to the American psychological
12 association fact sheet *Gender Diversity and Transgender*
13 *Identity in Adolescents*, attempts to force gender-diverse and
14 transgender youths to change their behavior to fit into
15 social norms may traumatize the youths and stifle their
16 development into healthy adults; and

17 WHEREAS, the American psychological association has
18 concluded that sexual orientation change efforts can pose
19 critical health risks to lesbian, gay and bisexual people,
20 such as confusion, depression, guilt, helplessness,
21 hopelessness, shame, social withdrawal, thoughts of suicide,
22 substance abuse, stress, disappointment, self-blame,
23 decreased self-esteem and decreased authenticity to others,
24 increased self-hatred, hostility and blame toward parents,
25 loss of friends and potential romantic partners, problems in

1 sexual and emotional intimacy, sexual dysfunction, high-risk
2 sexual behaviors, a feeling of being dehumanized and untrue
3 to self, a loss of faith and a sense of having wasted time
4 and resources; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2009, the American psychological association
6 issued a resolution advising parents, guardians, young people
7 and their families to "avoid sexual orientation change
8 efforts that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or
9 developmental disorder and to seek psychotherapy, social
10 support and educational services that provide accurate
11 information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increase
12 family and school support and reduce rejection of sexual
13 minority youth"; and

14 WHEREAS, many other mental health organizations have
15 taken positions in opposition to attempts to "convert" or
16 "repair" homosexuality, including the American psychiatric
17 association, the American medical association council on
18 scientific affairs, the national association of social
19 workers, the American counseling association governing
20 council and the American school counselor association; and

21 WHEREAS, laws in California, New Jersey and Washington,
22 D.C., have banned the practice of using conversion or
23 reparative therapy to change minors' sexual orientation or
24 gender identity or expression; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a compelling interest in

1 protecting the physical and psychological well-being of its
2 minors, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
3 youths, and in protecting its minors against exposure to harm
4 that may be caused by sexual orientation, gender identity and
5 gender expression change efforts;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of health be requested
8 to convene a working group of representatives from the
9 department of health, the children, youth and families
10 department, the human services department, the public
11 education department, equality New Mexico and the transgender
12 resource center of New Mexico; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
14 requested to review whether any sexual orientation, gender
15 identity or gender expression change efforts attempted on a
16 patient under eighteen years of age by a person who is
17 licensed in New Mexico to provide professional counseling or
18 a person who performs counseling as a part of the person's
19 professional training should be considered unprofessional
20 conduct; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
22 requested to compile and make available to the public a
23 report that includes a survey of reparative, conversion and
24 other change efforts under way throughout the state; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the
2 secretary of children, youth and families, the secretary of
3 human services, the secretary of public education, the
4 executive director of equality New Mexico and the executive
5 director of the transgender resource center of
6 New Mexico. _____

SM 42
Page 4

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25