

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE TASK FORCE FORMED TO
3 STUDY AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS ON THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO
4 SEXUALLY EXPLOITED MINORS AND ON THE EFFECTS OF A SAFE HARBOR
5 LAW ON THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES.

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7 WHEREAS, a task force was formed in 2014 to study the
8 delivery of services to sexually exploited children in
9 New Mexico and the effects that passage of a "safe harbor"
10 law might have on the delivery of those services and programs
11 for sexually exploited children; and

12 WHEREAS, safe harbor laws have been developed by states
13 to address the inconsistencies on how children who are
14 exploited for commercial sex or labor are treated; and

15 WHEREAS, safe harbor laws regarding human trafficking
16 and prostitution may prevent child victims of sex trafficking
17 from being prosecuted for prostitution and can protect child
18 victims of sex trafficking from further exploitation by
19 providing them with services; and

20 WHEREAS, the task force, consisting of representatives
21 of service providers, including the lifelink and enlace
22 communitario, representatives of advocates, including the
23 New Mexico coalition of sexual assault programs,
24 incorporated, the New Mexico women's agenda, Santa Fe safe
25 and New Mexico voices for children, and representatives of

1 the office of the attorney general, the children, youth and
2 families department and other interested organizations and
3 groups, has been meeting for six months to collect
4 information about safe harbor programs, laws in other states
5 and services for trafficking victims in New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2014, the task force presented a preliminary
7 report to the legislative health and human services committee
8 and the courts, corrections and justice committee; and

9 WHEREAS, task force members are encouraged by the
10 progress they have made and believe that it would be
11 beneficial to continue to meet during the 2015 interim to
12 further engage the voices and opinions of former victims,
13 as well as representatives of the judiciary; and

14 WHEREAS, the task force has identified the need for more
15 education of the public and of law enforcement, provided by
16 criminal justice professionals, on recognizing sexual
17 exploitation of children in New Mexico; recognizing children
18 who might be presented as adults; and on up-to-date
19 information about services and available shelters;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the task force created in 2014 to
22 study the delivery of services to sexually exploited children
23 in New Mexico be requested to continue to meet during the
24 2015 interim; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested

1 to obtain reports and collect data from local and regional
2 entities regarding arrests, referrals for treatment and other
3 indicators available on the incidence of sexually exploited
4 children; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
6 to obtain recommendations and analyses from local and
7 regional entities that deal with children, as well as obtain
8 recommendations from the judiciary regarding ways to prevent
9 sexually exploited children from entering the juvenile
10 justice system; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
12 to obtain information and recommendations from former victims
13 of sexual exploitation and others who have dealt with
14 sexually exploited youth; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
16 to develop recommendations for any changes in laws and
17 delivery of services to sexually exploited children that task
18 force members believe would improve children's future in
19 New Mexico; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
21 to prepare a report of the data collected and provide
22 recommendations to the legislative health and human services
23 committee and to the appropriate interim committee for courts
24 and corrections issues no later than November 2015; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the task force's

1 report be made available to the public; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the chair of the legislative health and human
4 services committee, the co-chairs of the New Mexico
5 legislative council and the New Mexico women's agenda for
6 distribution to the organizations participating in the task
7 force. _____

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