

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING A TASK FORCE TO PERFORM AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION
3 OF THE ADOLESCENT TREATMENT HOSPITAL AND THE ADOLESCENT
4 RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO
5 THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.
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7 WHEREAS, with the 1992 enactment of the Adolescent
8 Treatment Hospital Act, the adolescent treatment hospital was
9 authorized to provide care, treatment and reintegration into
10 society for adolescents who are or who have a history of
11 violence, who have a mental disorder and who are amenable to
12 treatment; and

13 WHEREAS, pursuant to that act, the adolescent
14 residential treatment facility was authorized to provide a
15 residential treatment program designed for treating
16 adolescents with serious emotional disturbances in a
17 therapeutic environment for the purpose of developing skills
18 necessary for successful transition into the community; and

19 WHEREAS, the adolescent treatment hospital and the
20 adolescent residential treatment facility are under the
21 administration and control of the department of health; and

22 WHEREAS, for more than twenty years, the adolescent
23 treatment hospital and the adolescent residential treatment
24 facility have operated in compliance with the mandates; and

25 WHEREAS, until 2012, the average resident daily census

1 was approximately thirty-five, and there was a waiting list;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, since 2012, there has been a precipitous drop
4 in the average resident daily census, at some points as low
5 as thirteen, and there is no waiting list; and

6 WHEREAS, the reduction in average resident daily census
7 and lack of a waiting list indicate that adolescents who need
8 the services provided by the adolescent treatment hospital
9 and the adolescent residential treatment facility are not
10 being served;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that an independent evaluation of the
13 therapeutic model, residential services, staffing levels and
14 qualifications, and after-care services be undertaken by a
15 task force under the direction of the chairman of the
16 university of New Mexico school of medicine's department of
17 psychiatry and behavioral sciences or the chairman's
18 designee; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be
20 composed of the deputy cabinet secretary of the department of
21 health or the deputy cabinet secretary's designee, the
22 director of the facilities division of the department of
23 health, the retired former director of the adolescent
24 treatment hospital and the adolescent residential treatment
25 facility, the executive director of the New Mexico council on

1 crime and delinquency, the director of psychiatry of the
2 juvenile justice division of the children, youth and families
3 department, a parent or guardian of a current or former
4 resident of the adolescent treatment hospital or the
5 adolescent residential treatment facility, a board-certified
6 adolescent pediatrician and other persons selected by the
7 chairman of the university of New Mexico school of medicine's
8 department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall make
10 recommendations to the interim legislative health and human
11 services committee not later than November 1, 2015, to
12 include:

13 A. ways to strengthen the program and services
14 provided by the adolescent treatment hospital and adolescent
15 residential treatment facility;

16 B. a plan to improve the financial status of the
17 adolescent treatment hospital and adolescent residential
18 treatment facility;

19 C. a plan to build a statewide system of after
20 care for residents upon discharge; and

21 D. proposed legislation, if any, necessary to
22 implement the task force's recommendations; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of
25 children, youth and families, the director of the juvenile

1 justice division of the children, youth and families
2 department, the interim legislative health and human services
3 committee and the chairman of the university of New Mexico
4 school of medicine's department of psychiatry and behavioral
5 sciences. _____

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