

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 44

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Sander Rue

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE NEW MEXICO MORTGAGE FINANCE AUTHORITY AND OTHERS TO IDENTIFY STRATEGIES TO COORDINATE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR THE HOMELESS AND TO IDENTIFY AND REPORT ON GAPS IN HOUSING AND SERVICES.

WHEREAS, people who experience homelessness in New Mexico include families with children, people who are working at low-wage jobs, people suffering from mental illness, those with substance abuse problems, migrant workers, runaway teens, victims of domestic violence and veterans; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico coalition to end homelessness estimates that there are at least seventeen thousand people in New Mexico who experience homelessness over the course of a year; and

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, providing housing resources to people who are
2 homeless is a vital and important goal; and

3 WHEREAS, a 2013 university of New Mexico study showed that
4 providing supportive housing and services to medically
5 vulnerable people experiencing homelessness resulted in a
6 savings of over twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) per year per
7 person when compared to the costs to government and health care
8 services used by the same people living outside or in shelters;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, supportive housing programs throughout New Mexico
11 have proven to be very effective at helping homeless
12 individuals and families obtain and maintain permanent housing;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, initiatives such as the New Mexico coordinated
15 assessment work to ensure that people experiencing homelessness
16 are directed to the most appropriate housing resource as
17 quickly as possible using a common assessment tool, a community
18 prioritization system and a centralized database; and

19 WHEREAS, initiatives such as Albuquerque heading home have
20 shown that providing permanent supportive housing to medically
21 vulnerable, chronically homeless people using the housing first
22 model is cost-effective and has proven to help people exit
23 homelessness permanently; and

24 WHEREAS, the New Mexico mortgage finance authority
25 supports housing programs for the homeless throughout New

.199438.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 Mexico and the development of new supportive housing through
2 the federal low-income housing tax credit program; and

3 WHEREAS, the human services department's linkages program
4 provides state-funded permanent, supportive housing based on
5 the housing first model; and

6 WHEREAS, coordination of these various efforts would lead
7 to a more strategic and effective response to homelessness in
8 New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, medicaid expansion has the potential to ensure
10 that people experiencing homelessness have access to needed
11 behavioral health and medical services;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
13 OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department, the New
14 Mexico mortgage finance authority, the New Mexico coalition to
15 end homelessness and Albuquerque heading home be requested to
16 identify strategies to coordinate resources to more efficiently
17 house people who are homeless; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these entities identify a
19 strategy for using medicaid, linkages, the statewide
20 coordinated assessment system, the Albuquerque heading home
21 model, the low-income housing tax credit program and other
22 successful supportive housing programs to most effectively
23 address homelessness in New Mexico; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these entities identify gaps
25 in the availability of housing and services for people

.199438.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 experiencing homelessness; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these entities provide a
3 report of the strategies identified and other findings to the
4 legislative health and human services committee by November 1,
5 2015; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the executive
8 director of the New Mexico mortgage finance authority, the
9 executive director of the New Mexico coalition to end
10 homelessness and the chief executive officer of Albuquerque
11 heading home.