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SENATE MEMORIAL 73

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

INTRODUCED BY

Lisa A. Torraco

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, safe harbor laws regarding human trafficking and
prostitution may prevent child victims of sex trafficking from

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1 being prosecuted for prostitution and can protect child victims
2 of sex trafficking from further exploitation by providing them
3 with services; and

4 WHEREAS, the task force, consisting of representatives of
5 service providers, including the lifelink and enlace
6 communitario, representatives of advocates, including the New
7 Mexico coalition of sexual assault programs, incorporated, the
8 New Mexico women's agenda, Santa Fe safe and New Mexico voices
9 for children, and representatives of the office of the attorney
10 general, the children, youth and families department and other
11 interested organizations and groups, has been meeting for six
12 months to collect information about safe harbor programs, laws
13 in other states and services for trafficking victims in New
14 Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2014, the task force presented a preliminary
16 report to the legislative health and human services committee
17 and the courts, corrections and justice committee; and

18 WHEREAS, task force members are encouraged by the progress
19 they have made and believe that it would be beneficial to
20 continue to meet during the 2015 interim to further engage the
21 voices and opinions of former victims, as well as
22 representatives of the judiciary; and

23 WHEREAS, the task force has identified the need for more
24 education of the public and of law enforcement, provided by
25 criminal justice professionals, on recognizing sexual

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1 exploitation of children in New Mexico; recognizing children
2 who might be presented as adults; and on up-to-date information
3 about services and available shelters;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
5 OF NEW MEXICO that the task force created in 2014 to study the
6 delivery of services to sexually exploited children in New
7 Mexico be requested to continue to meet during the 2015
8 interim; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
10 obtain reports and collect data from local and regional
11 entities regarding arrests, referrals for treatment and other
12 indicators available on the incidence of sexually exploited
13 children; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
15 obtain recommendations and analyses from local and regional
16 entities that deal with children, as well as obtain
17 recommendations from the judiciary regarding ways to prevent
18 sexually exploited children from entering the juvenile justice
19 system; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
21 obtain information and recommendations from former victims of
22 sexual exploitation and others who have dealt with sexually
23 exploited youth; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
25 develop recommendations for any changes in laws and delivery of

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1 services to sexually exploited children that task force members
2 believe would improve children's future in New Mexico; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
4 prepare a report of the data collected and provide
5 recommendations to the legislative health and human services
6 committee and to the appropriate interim committee for courts
7 and corrections issues no later than November 2015; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the task force's
9 report be made available to the public; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the chair of the legislative health and human
12 services committee, the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
13 council and the New Mexico women's agenda for distribution to
14 the organizations participating in the task force.