

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 112

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE INTERAGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PURCHASING
12 COLLABORATIVE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY AREAS IN THE
13 STATE WITH THE GREATEST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SHORTAGES AND TO
14 RECOMMEND POLICY AND FUNDING CHANGES TO ADDRESS THE SHORTAGES.
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16 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, deaths caused by injury, violence
17 and substance abuse exceed national rates; and

18 WHEREAS, alcohol and drugs contribute to violent outcomes,
19 and New Mexico has the second-highest drug overdose mortality
20 rate in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2010, there were ten thousand hospital
22 discharges and visits to emergency rooms because of substance
23 abuse and violence; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks fifth among states with the
25 highest suicide rates for all age groups; and

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1 WHEREAS, all or portions of thirty-one out of thirty-three
2 counties in New Mexico are federally designated as health
3 professional shortage areas or medically underserved areas; and

4 WHEREAS, there are significantly more behavioral health
5 care providers in urban areas than in rural areas;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
7 OF NEW MEXICO that the interagency behavioral health purchasing
8 collaborative be requested to convene a task force to identify
9 areas in the state with the greatest behavioral health
10 shortages; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief executive officer of
12 the interagency behavioral health purchasing collaborative be
13 requested to include on the task force representatives of
14 behavioral health providers, including psychologists, clinical
15 social workers, psychiatric nurse practitioners or clinical
16 nurse specialists, doctors of medicine, primary care
17 association representatives and representatives of associations
18 of professional counselors and therapists; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
20 review and identify causes of why rural and frontier areas of
21 New Mexico are underserved by behavioral health providers; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
23 findings and make recommendations for policy and funding
24 changes that would encourage or provide incentives for
25 behavioral health advisers to work in rural and frontier areas

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1 to the appropriate interim committee by November 1, 2015; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the chief executive officer of the interagency
4 behavioral health purchasing collaborative and the secretary of
5 human services.