

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 115

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gerald Ortiz y Pino

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING A TASK FORCE TO PERFORM AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF
12 THE ADOLESCENT TREATMENT HOSPITAL AND THE ADOLESCENT
13 RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
14 INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.

15
16 WHEREAS, with the 1992 enactment of the Adolescent
17 Treatment Hospital Act, the adolescent treatment hospital was
18 authorized to provide care, treatment and reintegration into
19 society for adolescents who are or who have a history of
20 violence, who have a mental disorder and who are amenable to
21 treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, pursuant to that act, the adolescent residential
23 treatment facility was authorized to provide a residential
24 treatment program designed for treating adolescents with
25 serious emotional disturbances in a therapeutic environment for

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1 the purpose of developing skills necessary for successful
2 transition into the community; and

3 WHEREAS, the adolescent treatment hospital and the
4 adolescent residential treatment facility are under the
5 administration and control of the department of health; and

6 WHEREAS, for more than twenty years, the adolescent
7 treatment hospital and the adolescent residential treatment
8 facility have operated in compliance with the mandates; and

9 WHEREAS, until 2012, the average resident daily census was
10 approximately thirty-five, and there was a waiting list; and

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

14 WHEREAS, the reduction in average resident daily census
15 and lack of a waiting list indicate that adolescents who need
16 the services provided by the adolescent treatment hospital and
17 the adolescent residential treatment facility are not being
18 served;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that an independent evaluation of the therapeutic
21 model, residential services, staffing levels and
22 qualifications, and after-care services be undertaken by a task
23 force under the direction of the chairman of the university of
24 New Mexico school of medicine's department of psychiatry and
25 behavioral sciences or the chairman's designee; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be
2 composed of the deputy cabinet secretary of the department of
3 health or the deputy cabinet secretary's designee, the director
4 of the facilities division of the department of health, the
5 retired former director of the adolescent treatment hospital
6 and the adolescent residential treatment facility, the
7 executive director of the New Mexico council on crime and
8 delinquency, the director of psychiatry of the juvenile justice
9 division of the children, youth and families department, a
10 parent or guardian of a current or former resident of the
11 adolescent treatment hospital or the adolescent residential
12 treatment facility, a board-certified adolescent pediatrician
13 and other persons selected by the chairman of the university of
14 New Mexico school of medicine's department of psychiatry and
15 behavioral sciences; and

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

19 A. ways to strengthen the program and services
20 provided by the adolescent treatment hospital and adolescent
21 residential treatment facility;

22 B. a plan to improve the financial status of the
23 adolescent treatment hospital and adolescent residential
24 treatment facility;

25 C. a plan to build a statewide system of after care

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for residents upon discharge; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of
children, youth and families, the director of the juvenile
justice division of the children, youth and families
department, the interim legislative health and human services
committee and the chairman of the university of New Mexico
school of medicine's department of psychiatry and behavioral
sciences.