

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
3 AND THE NEW MEXICO COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS TO
4 CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO CREATE A STATEWIDE HEALTH PLAN
5 DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE
6 STRANGULATION AND TO ADDRESS THE LONG-TERM HEALTH
7 IMPLICATIONS.

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9 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the second-highest domestic
10 violence rate in the United States, and sixty-eight percent
11 of all domestic violence victims will experience near-fatal
12 strangulation as a consequence of domestic violence; and

13 WHEREAS, often, even in fatal cases, there is no
14 external evidence of injury from strangulation; and

15 WHEREAS, because of underlying brain damage due to the
16 lack of oxygen during the strangulation assault, victims may
17 have serious internal injuries or die days or even weeks
18 later; and

19 WHEREAS, anoxic brain injury from strangulation may
20 occur within seconds and death within minutes; and

21 WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies may underestimate the
22 significance of strangulation and its potential lethality and
23 fail to make appropriate medical referrals; and

24 WHEREAS, some first responders and emergency room
25 personnel lack training to identify the signs and symptoms of

1 strangulation and often focus on visible, obvious injuries,
2 such as stab wounds or contusions; and

3 WHEREAS, a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach is
4 needed from law enforcement, first responders and the medical
5 community to effectively address strangulation, reduce
6 children's exposure to violence and end the cycle of
7 violence; and

8 WHEREAS, the injury prevention program of the department
9 of health is charged with the promotion of programs and
10 policies focusing on the prevention of sexual violence and
11 intimate partner violence;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico coalition against
14 domestic violence and the New Mexico coalition of sexual
15 assault programs be requested to convene a task force to
16 create a statewide health plan to reduce the incidence of
17 interpersonal violence strangulation and to address its
18 long-term health implications; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of health be
20 requested to appoint a member of the epidemiology and
21 response division of the department of health to the task
22 force; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
24 to include participation from the New Mexico coalition
25 against domestic violence, the New Mexico coalition of sexual

1 assault programs, the coalition to stop violence against
2 native women, the crime victims reparation commission, the
3 Santa Fe coordinated community response council, the
4 university of New Mexico health sciences center, the Indian
5 health service and a medical first responder agency; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also be
7 requested to include participation from a sexual assault
8 nurse examiner, a law enforcement officer with expertise in
9 domestic violence, a medical professional with expertise in
10 the area of anoxic brain injury caused by strangulation and
11 other appropriate entities; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its
13 recommendations to the legislative health and human services
14 committee and the legislative finance committee by
15 November 30, 2017; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the chair of the legislative finance committee,
18 the chair of the legislative health and human services
19 committee, the secretary of health, the executive director of
20 the New Mexico coalition against domestic violence and the
21 executive director of the New Mexico coalition of sexual
22 assault programs.

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