

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 11

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO  
CREATE A STATEWIDE HEALTH PLAN DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE LONG-TERM  
HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE STRANGULATION.

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

WHEREAS, often, even in fatal cases, there is no external  
evidence of injury from strangulation, yet because of  
underlying brain damage due to the lack of oxygen during the  
strangulation assault, victims may have serious internal  
injuries or die days or even weeks later; and

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

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1           WHEREAS, many law enforcement agencies underestimate the  
2 significance of strangulation and its potential lethality and  
3 fail to make appropriate medical referrals; and

4           WHEREAS, many first responders and emergency room  
5 personnel lack the training necessary to identify the signs and  
6 symptoms of strangulation and often focus on visible, obvious  
7 injuries like stab wounds or contusions; and

8           WHEREAS, a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach is needed  
9 from law enforcement, first responders and the medical  
10 community to effectively address strangulation, reduce  
11 children's exposure to violence and end the cycle of violence;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, the injury prevention division of the department  
14 of health is charged with the promotion of programs and  
15 policies focusing on the prevention of sexual violence and  
16 intimate partner violence;

17           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested  
19 to convene a task force to create a statewide health plan to  
20 reduce the incidence of interpersonal violence strangulation  
21 and address the long-term health implications of interpersonal  
22 violence strangulation; and

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of health be  
24 requested to invite representatives from the following entities  
25 to participate in the task force:

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