

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A
3 COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY CENTER IN THE NORTHEAST REGION OF
4 NEW MEXICO.

5
6 WHEREAS, drug abuse, alcohol abuse and addiction are
7 serious and growing problems within Mora, San Miguel and
8 Guadalupe counties in northeastern New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, the effects of drug and alcohol abuse are
10 devastating to those dealing with addiction, and to their
11 families, friends and the community as a whole; and

12 WHEREAS, depression and suicide are also serious health
13 problems, with suicide rates in New Mexico at least fifty
14 percent higher than United States rates over the past twenty
15 years, according to department of health statistics; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2017, suicide was the ninth-leading cause of
17 death in New Mexico; and the New Mexico counties in the
18 northeast with the highest suicide rates are Taos, San Miguel
19 and Torrance counties; and

20 WHEREAS, deaths resulting from drug abuse, alcohol abuse
21 and addiction are at historically high levels in Mora,
22 San Miguel and Guadalupe counties and elsewhere in
23 northeastern New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, the economic effects of drug abuse, alcohol
25 abuse and addiction on Mora, San Miguel and Guadalupe

1 counties and the other communities of northeastern New Mexico
2 are devastating, including the burden on health, law
3 enforcement and detention resources; and

4 WHEREAS, detoxification and treatment services are
5 crucial elements in the fight against drug abuse, alcohol
6 abuse and addiction; and

7 WHEREAS, northeastern New Mexico lacks public
8 detoxification inpatient and outpatient treatment options;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, local collaborative four, serving Mora,
11 San Miguel and Guadalupe counties, is engaged in joint
12 efforts with the city of Las Vegas, alta vista regional
13 hospital, New Mexico highlands university, el centro family
14 health, Mora valley community health services, Pecos valley
15 medical center, the New Mexico heroin and opioid prevention
16 and education initiative and several other local agencies to
17 open detoxification and treatment facilities within the
18 community; and

19 WHEREAS, the city of Las Vegas and San Miguel county
20 have set aside funding and partnered with other local
21 agencies to apply for additional funding through grants and
22 to facilitate increased access to behavioral health services,
23 including those directed at drug abuse, alcohol abuse and
24 addiction; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university was awarded a

1 one-hundred-thousand-dollar (\$100,000) per fiscal year
2 prevention grant by the New Mexico office of substance abuse
3 prevention beginning in 2014 to establish the San Miguel
4 county substance abuse prevention coalition; and

5 WHEREAS, the San Miguel county substance abuse
6 prevention coalition includes a comprehensive data-driven
7 strategic plan that includes prevention strategies directed
8 at changing the intervening variables that contribute to drug
9 abuse and binge drinking; and

10 WHEREAS, el centro family health and local collaborative
11 four were awarded a two-hundred-thousand-dollar (\$200,000)
12 planning grant by the federal health resources and services
13 administration for the semillas de esperanza opioid response
14 initiative, which includes conducting a needs assessment and
15 regional opioid use profile and developing architectural
16 plans for a comprehensive recovery center; and

17 WHEREAS, the semillas de esperanza opioid response
18 initiative builds on the successes over the past year to
19 conduct the necessary planning as a multi-sector coalition to
20 build a better pathway for the prevention and treatment of
21 and a system for a sustained recovery from opioid use in the
22 coalition's area; and

23 WHEREAS, in a region that is experiencing health
24 professional shortages, ensuring that there are adequate
25 providers to serve the area is essential; and

1 WHEREAS, a comprehensive recovery center is being
2 planned by local collaborative four and its partners during
3 2019 with a proposed implementation in 2020; and

4 WHEREAS, the comprehensive recovery center will offer
5 prevention, intervention, harm reduction and treatment
6 programs provided by established community agencies in the
7 local collaborative four region; and

8 WHEREAS, the comprehensive recovery center will provide
9 vocational training to help patients obtain jobs following
10 their treatment; and

11 WHEREAS, the comprehensive recovery center will also
12 provide community gardening to teach self-sustaining skills
13 while providing nutrition and support to the community; and

14 WHEREAS, the comprehensive recovery center will
15 participate in developing an economic development plan to
16 help the local economy through job growth and an increased
17 tax base; and

18 WHEREAS, the comprehensive recovery center will offer
19 outpatient and long-term inpatient services to help sustain
20 patients' recovery; and

21 WHEREAS, the comprehensive recovery center will offer a
22 holistic approach to recovery, using culturally relevant
23 programming and local healers who practice traditional
24 healing rooted in the community; and

25 WHEREAS, the comprehensive recovery center will include

1 a drop-in center for community members needing a safe
2 location to rest, increasing public safety; and

3 WHEREAS, collaboration with other behavioral health
4 programs and systems in the state and development of a
5 comprehensive recovery treatment center would serve the
6 inpatient treatment needs of all counties in the broader
7 northern New Mexico region, particularly the northeastern
8 counties in which no inpatient treatment facility currently
9 exists; and

10 WHEREAS, the problems of drug abuse, alcohol abuse and
11 addiction are regional and demand cooperation and resources
12 from all levels of government, as well as from the nonprofit
13 and private sectors;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the problems of drug abuse, alcohol
16 abuse and addiction be recognized as creating a public health
17 crisis in the northeast region of New Mexico, including local
18 collaborative four's service area of Mora, San Miguel and
19 Guadalupe counties; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate be requested to
21 declare its commitment to supporting the planning and
22 development of a comprehensive recovery center in
23 northeastern New Mexico; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate be requested to
25 declare its support of a regional approach to reducing drug

1 abuse, alcohol abuse and addiction, incorporating all levels
2 of government, as well as the private and nonprofit sectors,
3 in the fight against drug abuse, alcohol abuse and addiction;
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the county managers of Mora, San Miguel and
7 Guadalupe counties, the mayor of the city of Las Vegas, the
8 mayor of the city of Santa Rosa, the mayor of the village of
9 Pecos, the mayor of the town of Vaughn, the chief executive
10 officer of alta vista regional hospital, the president of
11 New Mexico highlands university, the chief of operations of el
12 centro family health, the chief executive officer of Mora
13 valley community health services, the chief executive officer
14 of Pecos valley medical center, the New Mexico heroin and
15 opioid prevention and education initiative, the administrator
16 of the New Mexico behavioral health institute at Las Vegas,
17 the administrator of the Guadalupe county hospital in Santa
18 Rosa, the administrator of the miners' Colfax medical center
19 and members of the New Mexico congressional delegation. _____