

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 123

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

5
6
7
8
9
10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF THE
12 UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO CONVENE A TASK
13 FORCE TO STUDY EXTENDING THE HARM REDUCTION ACT.

14
15 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Harm Reduction Act is to
16 prevent the transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus,
17 hepatitis B and C viruses and other blood-borne diseases; and

18 WHEREAS, at this time, the implementation of the Harm
19 Reduction Act focuses mainly on illnesses transmitted by blood,
20 but not by other means such as sexual activity; and

21 WHEREAS, sexually transmitted infections include the human
22 immunodeficiency virus and hepatitis B and C viruses as well as
23 the hepatitis A virus, chlamydia, gonorrhea, antibiotic-
24 resistant gonorrhea, syphilis, human papillomavirus and others;
25 and

.214922.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, the effects of sexually transmitted infections
2 include chronic illness, infertility, cancer, compromised
3 childbirth and death; and

4 WHEREAS, early detection of sexually transmitted
5 infections allows improved access to treatment, early
6 intervention and efficient use of resources, and clinical
7 diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections can be followed by
8 appropriate and timely treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, medically marginalized or unserved populations
10 are the most at risk of contracting sexually transmitted
11 infections; and

12 WHEREAS, for many medically marginalized or unserved
13 individuals, the struggle to find food, shelter, clothing and
14 safety are immediate priorities, while sexually transmitted
15 infections go untreated; and

16 WHEREAS, sexually transmitted infections often result in a
17 long chain of infection by being transmitted to others,
18 including spouses and family members; and

19 WHEREAS, most marginalized or unserved patients do not
20 receive treatment to reduce the risk of additional infections
21 themselves or to reduce the risk of transmitting infections to
22 others; and

23 WHEREAS, breaking the cycle of disease among all
24 populations is a worthy effort to be pursued by state
25 officials; and

.214922.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, it is in society's best interests to protect the
2 public health by reducing disease among all populations through
3 prevention and prophylaxis; and

4 WHEREAS, medically marginalized or unserved at-risk
5 populations often do not have access to contraception; and

6 WHEREAS, unplanned pregnancies in medically marginalized
7 or unserved at-risk populations frequently result in infants
8 being placed in foster care; and

9 WHEREAS, the breaking apart of the family unit harms not
10 only parents and children, but communities and the state as
11 well; and

12 WHEREAS, an extension of the Harm Reduction Act could
13 provide a systematic way of identifying patients with sexually
14 transmitted diseases, monitoring their progress and ensuring
15 that the patients receive appropriate care to reduce the spread
16 of sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE OF THE STATE OF
18 NEW MEXICO that the division of infectious diseases of the
19 university of New Mexico school of medicine be requested to
20 convene a task force to study extending the Harm Reduction Act
21 to include offering sexually transmitted infection testing and
22 treatment and contraception to people of medically marginalized
23 or unserved at-risk populations; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
25 to:

.214922.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 A. evaluate New Mexico's current approaches to
2 promoting public health among medically marginalized or
3 unserved at-risk populations and how those approaches may be
4 improved;

5 B. facilitate and support implementation of the
6 task force's recommendations for extending the Harm Reduction
7 Act by the department of health;

8 C. develop strategy recommendations for effective
9 community outreach and education;

10 D. develop facilities and resource recommendations
11 to improve delivery of sexually transmitted infection testing
12 and treatment and the delivery of contraception in New Mexico;
13 and

14 E. develop policy and procedural recommendations to
15 the department of health's harm reduction program to
16 successfully implement the task force's recommendations; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
18 evaluate New Mexico's current approach to promoting public
19 health and to providing sexually transmitted infection
20 prevention and the provision of contraception to people of
21 medically marginalized or unserved at-risk populations; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
23 study ways to determine the potential impacts of an expansion
24 of the Harm Reduction Act on medically marginalized or unserved
25 at-risk populations; and

.214922.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
2 representatives from the division of infectious diseases and
3 the department of family and community medicine at the
4 university of New Mexico school of medicine, the department of
5 health, street safe New Mexico and from the harm reduction
6 staffs at Albuquerque healthcare for the homeless, first
7 nations community healthsource and the transgender resource
8 center of New Mexico; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force be requested
10 to invite additional task force members to recruit greater
11 statewide representation, including physicians and
12 representatives from the sub-specialties of public health and
13 infectious disease and self-advocates; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its
15 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim
16 legislative committees by October 1, 2019; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the
19 secretary of general services, the secretary of public safety,
20 the chief of the division of infectious diseases at the
21 university of New Mexico school of medicine, the program
22 director of the department of family and community medicine at
23 the university of New Mexico school of medicine, the executive
24 director of street safe New Mexico, the chief executive
25 director of Albuquerque healthcare for the homeless, the

.214922.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 president of first nations community healthsource, the co-
2 directors of the transgender resource center of New Mexico and
3 the chair of the legislative health and human services
4 committee.

5 - 6 -
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25