

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE  
3 TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING MENTAL HEALTH AND  
4 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY PROVIDERS TO BE TRAINED IN THE  
5 TREATMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND  
6 CO-OCCURRING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

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8 WHEREAS, it is estimated that somewhere between forty  
9 and seventy-six percent of adults with developmental  
10 disabilities suffer from mental illness; and

11 WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities suffer  
12 from mental illness at substantially higher rates than the  
13 rest of the population; and

14 WHEREAS, there is not a standard requirement for mental  
15 health or developmental disability providers to be trained in  
16 the treatment of people with developmental disabilities and  
17 co-occurring mental health issues; and

18 WHEREAS, mental health providers who are not properly  
19 trained in developmental disability issues often misdiagnose  
20 and improperly medicate patients with developmental  
21 disabilities, causing severe injuries and even death; and

22 WHEREAS, it is imperative for efforts to be taken to  
23 assess and address the lack of training on developmental  
24 disability issues in the mental health field;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the  
2 department of health be requested to create a task force to  
3 study the feasibility of requiring various mental health and  
4 developmental disability providers to be trained in the  
5 treatment of people with developmental disabilities and  
6 co-occurring mental health issues; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at least one-half of the  
8 members of the task force include representatives from  
9 developmental disability advocacy organizations such as  
10 people first, New Mexico allies for advocacy, inc., parents  
11 reaching out, education for parents of Indian children with  
12 special needs, the national alliance on mental illness,  
13 disability rights New Mexico, elevate the spectrum and  
14 families ASAP, with the remaining members of the task force  
15 being representatives from the department of health, the  
16 developmental disabilities supports division of the  
17 department of health, the New Mexico developmental  
18 disabilities council, the university of New Mexico center for  
19 development and disability, the university of New Mexico  
20 school of medicine transdisciplinary evaluation and support  
21 clinic and the regulation and licensing department; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its  
23 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and  
24 human services committee by December 1, 2023; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the secretary of health, the chair and vice  
2 chair of the legislative health and human services committee,  
3 the superintendent of regulation and licensing, New Mexico  
4 allies for advocacy, inc., parents reaching out, the national  
5 alliance on mental illness, disability rights New Mexico,  
6 families ASAP, education for parents of Indian children with  
7 special needs, elevate the spectrum, the New Mexico  
8 developmental disabilities council, the university of New  
9 Mexico center for development and disability and the  
10 university of New Mexico school of medicine transdisciplinary  
11 evaluation and support clinic.

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