

HOUSE MEMORIAL 5

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, there is not a standard requirement for mental  
health or developmental disability providers to be trained in  
the treatment of people with developmental disabilities and

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1 co-occurring mental health issues; and

2 WHEREAS, mental health providers who are not properly  
3 trained in developmental disability issues often misdiagnose  
4 and improperly medicate patients with developmental  
5 disabilities, causing severe injuries and even death; and

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

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department  
11 of health be requested to create a task force to study the  
12 feasibility of requiring various mental health and  
13 developmental disability providers to be trained in the  
14 treatment of people with developmental disabilities and  
15 co-occurring mental health issues; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at least one-half of the  
17 members of the task force include representatives from  
18 developmental disability advocacy organizations such as people  
19 first, New Mexico allies for advocacy, inc., parents reaching  
20 out, education for parents of Indian children with special  
21 needs, the national alliance on mental illness, disability  
22 rights New Mexico, elevate the spectrum and families ASAP, with  
23 the remaining members of the task force being representatives  
24 from the department of health, the developmental disabilities  
25 supports division of the department of health, the New Mexico

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1 developmental disabilities council, the university of New  
2 Mexico center for development and disability, the university of  
3 New Mexico school of medicine transdisciplinary evaluation and  
4 support clinic and the regulation and licensing department; and

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

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the secretary of health, the chair and vice  
10 chair of the legislative health and human services committee,  
11 the superintendent of regulation and licensing, New Mexico  
12 allies for advocacy, inc., parents reaching out, the national  
13 alliance on mental illness, disability rights New Mexico,  
14 families ASAP, education for parents of Indian children with  
15 special needs, elevate the spectrum, the New Mexico  
16 developmental disabilities council, the university of New  
17 Mexico center for development and disability and the university  
18 of New Mexico school of medicine transdisciplinary evaluation  
19 and support clinic.