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SENATE MEMORIAL 67

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

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto and Antoinette Sedillo Lopez and
Brenda G. McKenna

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION TO CONVENE A
STATEWIDE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE TO STUDY GUN
VIOLENCE IN NEW MEXICO AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
ADDRESSING THE ISSUE.

WHEREAS, gun violence is a serious issue affecting
communities across the United States, including New Mexico,
with a significant number of deaths and injuries resulting from
gun-related incidents; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, there was a sixteen and eight-tenths
percent spike in gun deaths in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, there were five hundred sixty-two firearm-related
deaths in New Mexico, of which two hundred forty-three were
homicides and accidental and law enforcement shootings, and
three hundred nineteen deaths were suicides; and

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1 WHEREAS, according to the federal centers for disease
2 control and prevention, guns are now the leading cause of death
3 among children and adolescents in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, schools have been struggling to respond to the
5 increase in school closures due to threats, violence and school
6 shootings; and

7 WHEREAS, an increasing number of New Mexico schools have
8 received hoax shooting calls, invoking shelter-in-place and
9 other responses that cause disruptions at the schools; and

10 WHEREAS, the lag in law enforcement response time to
11 incidences of shootings, violence or hoaxes in rural areas is
12 especially frustrating; and

13 WHEREAS, a scarcity of law enforcement organizations,
14 aside from the Navajo Nation police, in the rural areas from
15 Gallup to Tohatchi to Shiprock, affects response times to
16 reports of shootings and violence; and

17 WHEREAS, no reliable data exist regarding law enforcement
18 response times in rural areas from Gallup to Tohatchi to
19 Shiprock, an example of the gaps in data that exist; and

20 WHEREAS, a 2019 congressional study found the cost of gun
21 violence in New Mexico to be one billion eight hundred million
22 dollars (\$1,800,000,000), or eight hundred fifty-two dollars
23 (\$852) per resident; and

24 WHEREAS, addressing the root causes of gun violence
25 requires a comprehensive public health approach that is

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1 evidence-based and needs to involve collaboration among various
2 stakeholders; and

3 WHEREAS, a statewide task force focused on gun violence
4 prevention could play a crucial role in identifying strategies
5 and policies that could help to reduce the incidence of gun
6 violence and enhance public safety; and

7 WHEREAS, a statewide gun violence prevention task force
8 could bring together diverse perspectives from law enforcement,
9 health care professionals, community leaders, gun owners and
10 advocates for gun violence prevention;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
12 OF NEW MEXICO that the crime victims reparation commission be
13 requested to convene a statewide gun violence prevention task
14 force to study the issue of gun violence in New Mexico and to
15 make recommendations for addressing the issue; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide gun violence
17 prevention task force be composed of representatives of the
18 crime victims reparation commission, the public education
19 department, the higher education department, the department of
20 public safety, the department of health, the human services
21 department, the children, youth and families department, the
22 department of game and fish, the university of New Mexico,
23 Indian nations, tribes and pueblos of New Mexico, pueblo law
24 enforcement and federal and local law enforcement agencies, gun
25 advocates and distributors and anti-domestic violence and

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1 sexual assault groups; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide gun violence
3 prevention task force be requested to address the following
4 objectives:

5 A. to study the root causes and contributing
6 factors of gun violence in New Mexico and identify evidence-
7 based strategies and policies that can effectively reduce the
8 incidence of gun violence in the state;

9 B. to examine current state and federal laws
10 related to gun ownership, possession and use, and to recommend
11 measures that can enhance public safety while respecting the
12 second amendment rights of law-abiding citizens;

13 C. to examine ways to promote public education and
14 awareness about the risks of gun violence and the importance of
15 responsible gun ownership and storage; and

16 D. to engage with community leaders, law
17 enforcement officials, health care professionals and other
18 stakeholders to develop and implement effective strategies and
19 policies to prevent gun violence and enhance public safety; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the gun violence prevention
21 task force be requested to create different stakeholder tables
22 with different parties in order to define the problems,
23 identify the risk and protective factors, define effective
24 strategies and identify ways to develop and test prevention
25 strategies; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the gun violence prevention
2 task force be requested to report its findings and conclusions
3 to the interim committee dealing with courts, corrections and
4 justice issues, the legislative health and human services
5 committee and the governor; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the crime victims reparation commission for
8 distribution to task force representatives.