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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 50

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

James G. Taylor

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO INSTITUTE A NO-TOLERANCE POLICY REGARDING ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION AND DISRESPECTFUL TREATMENT OF THE ELDERLY, THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED AND MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN WHO RESIDE OR ARE TREATED IN STATE CERTIFIED OR LICENSED PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, the number of complaints to agencies involved with the care and treatment of the elderly, the developmentally disabled and medically fragile children has increased substantially; and

WHEREAS, the number of complaints to the office of the state long-term care ombudsman of the state agency on aging has increased from six thousand in 1997 to fifty thousand in

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1 1998; and

2 WHEREAS, there are far too many occurrences of abuse,
3 neglect, exploitation and disrespectful treatment of
4 vulnerable populations in institutions and programs licensed
5 or certified by the state; and

6 WHEREAS, the department of health, the human services
7 department and the children, youth and families department
8 have the authority to require that the institutions and
9 programs that they administer, license or certify invoke a no-
10 tolerance attitude regarding abuse, neglect, exploitation and
11 disrespectful treatment of the elderly, the developmentally
12 disabled and medically fragile children;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health, the human
15 services department and the children, youth and families
16 department evaluate the institutions, programs and services
17 under their supervision, or licensed or certified by the
18 departments, to ensure that there is a no-tolerance policy for
19 abuse, neglect, exploitation or disrespectful treatment of the
20 elderly, the developmentally disabled and medically fragile
21 children in effect in these institutions, programs and
22 services; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of human
25 services, the secretary of children, youth and families, the

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1 office of the state long-term care ombudsman and heads of the
2 various institutions, programs and service providers that
3 provide for the needs of the elderly, the developmentally
4 disabled and medically fragile children.

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999
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6 February 20, 1999
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8 Mr. Speaker:
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10 Your GOVERNMENT AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to
11 whom has been referred
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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

17 Respectfully submitted,
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21 _____
22 James G. Taylor, Chairman
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

Excused: Abeyta

Absent: None

J: \99BillSWP\HJ050

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