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SENATE MEMORIAL 16

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024**

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto and Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF THE SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL ABUSE TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESS SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL ABUSE.

WHEREAS, alcohol and substance abuse is extremely high in New Mexico, including on lands of Indian nations, tribes and pueblos; and

WHEREAS, additional alcohol and substance abuse treatment and recovery services are desperately needed throughout New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, legalization of recreational cannabis may be causing an increase in cannabis addiction or addiction to other substances; and

WHEREAS, many persons in New Mexico are harmed by spouses and relatives in need of alcohol and substance abuse services;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, the needs of communities that are  
3 disproportionately impacted by excessive alcohol and substance  
4 abuse need to be addressed;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
6 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature consider creating the  
7 "substance and alcohol abuse task force" to study and develop a  
8 comprehensive approach to address substance and alcohol abuse;  
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that  
11 the task force be composed of nine members, with the chair  
12 appointed by the secretary of health and the other eight  
13 members appointed by the majority and minority floor leaders of  
14 the house of representatives and the senate; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that  
16 the members of the task force:

17 A. have at least one member of an Indian nation,  
18 tribe or pueblo located wholly or partially within New Mexico;

19 B. have at least one member with research or  
20 practical experience in alcohol harm reduction strategies;

21 C. have substantial expertise in medical and  
22 behavioral sciences;

23 D. live and work in various parts of the state so  
24 as to provide broad geographical representation; and

25 E. not consist of more than four members of the

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1 same political party; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that  
3 the task force be appointed by July 1, 2024 and that the staff  
4 for the task force be provided by the department of health; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that  
6 public members of the task force receive per diem and mileage  
7 as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act and receive no  
8 other compensation, perquisite or allowance; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that  
10 the task force:

11 A. make recommendations to create innovative  
12 policies of prevention and care to improve the health and  
13 well-being of New Mexico residents suffering from substance and  
14 alcohol addiction;

15 B. study the health disparities and treatment  
16 disparities of persons addicted to alcohol and other substances  
17 in New Mexico's diverse communities;

18 C. study the health effects of the legalization of  
19 recreational cannabis and whether legalization has led to  
20 increased cannabis addiction or increased addiction to other  
21 substances; and

22 D. collect and analyze data and make  
23 recommendations to the legislature regarding incentives to  
24 decrease alcohol and substance abuse in the state; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature consider that

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1 annually, no later than November 1, the task force report its  
2 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and  
3 human services committee; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
5 transmitted to the chair of the legislative health and human  
6 services committee, the secretary of health and the majority  
7 and minority floor leaders of the house of representatives and  
8 the senate.

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