

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 23

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE INTERAGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PURCHASING COLLABORATIVE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PROCESS TO TRAIN, EDUCATE AND EMPOWER PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND BEHAVIORAL THERAPISTS TO BECOME ACADEMIC CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN AND THEREBY REDUCE AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS AND THE NEED FOR CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS.

WHEREAS, the children of New Mexico are its most important resource; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico schools are challenged by serious budget and funding constraints; and

WHEREAS, aggressive behavior in schools can result in costly destruction of property and unproductive utilization of both human and capital resources; and

WHEREAS, training of parents, caregivers, social workers

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1 and behavioral therapists to serve as academic champions for
2 children has been shown to be a cost-effective way to raise
3 student academic skills, reduce the incidence of aggressive
4 behavior and reduce the need for clinical interventions; and

5 WHEREAS, OptumHealth New Mexico is under a contract to
6 provide behavioral health and ancillary services to children
7 and families in New Mexico in need of such services; and

8 WHEREAS, no current program exists, nor is there funding
9 to train, educate and empower parents, caregivers, social
10 workers and behavioral therapists to become academic champions
11 and better prepared advocates for children; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico parents, children and schools would
13 benefit from such a program; and

14 WHEREAS, cooperation is necessary among the interagency
15 behavioral health purchasing collaborative, the public
16 education department, the children, youth and families
17 department and OptumHealth New Mexico in order to develop a
18 coordinated, cohesive and unified approach to reducing youth
19 violence and aggressive behaviors in the schools and improving
20 educational outcomes for children;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the interagency behavioral health
23 purchasing collaborative be requested to convene a task force
24 to develop a process to train, educate and empower parents,
25 caregivers, social workers and behavioral therapists to become

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1 academic champions for children and thereby reduce aggressive
2 behavior in schools and the need for clinical interventions;
3 and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop
5 recommended changes to the contract with OptumHealth to ensure
6 adequate funding for training and support systems for this
7 purpose, including consideration of establishment of a pilot
8 program; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task
10 force include representation from the public education
11 department, the children, youth and families department and
12 other appropriate agencies and individuals; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present a
14 report of its findings and recommendations to the interim
15 legislative health and human services committee and the
16 governor by October 2011 and to all the members of the
17 legislature when the second session of the fiftieth legislature
18 convenes; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the chief executive officer of the interagency
21 behavioral health purchasing collaborative, the secretary of
22 public education, the secretary of children, youth and
23 families, the chief executive officer of OptumHealth New Mexico
24 and the governor.