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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

INTRODUCED BY

Rodolpho “Rudy” S. Martinez

FOR THE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO WORK WITH THE INTERAGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PURCHASING COLLABORATIVE, THE NEW MEXICO VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, THE LAS CRUCES VET CENTER, THE SILVER CITY COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 358 AND OTHER NECESSARY ORGANIZATIONS TO STUDY THE UNMET BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS IN SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, veterans have fought to defend the country and deserve to be treated with the best health care possible; and

WHEREAS, state and federal governments have not provided sufficient services to provide the necessary behavioral health and primary care needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, local veterans, realizing that they were suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms and

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1 finding local veterans' services scarce, formed a group to  
2 support one another; and

3 WHEREAS, the number of veterans wanting to participate  
4 outgrew the capacity and capability of the group; and

5 WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Vietnam veterans from Grant county  
6 created their own chapter of the Vietnam veterans of America,  
7 Chapter 358, to provide support for local veterans; and

8 WHEREAS, Vietnam veterans of America Chapter 358 has been  
9 working tirelessly, day after day, to provide support and  
10 assistance to the local veterans in Grant county; and

11 WHEREAS, Vietnam veterans of America Chapter 358 worked  
12 with the local community to develop a federal veterans' center  
13 in Grant county; however, the center was placed in Las Cruces;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, a social worker from the Las Cruces vet center  
16 serves the Grant county area once per week, serving  
17 approximately seventy veterans in three different groups; and

18 WHEREAS, primary health care funds from the United States  
19 department of veterans affairs are depleted within the first  
20 quarter of each year; and

21 WHEREAS, there is a gap in comprehensive, reliable,  
22 consistent data for planning the support that is necessary for  
23 veterans in the Grant county area;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the veterans' services department be

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1 requested to collaborate with the interagency behavioral health  
2 purchasing collaborative, the New Mexico veterans affairs  
3 health care system, the Las Cruces vet center, the Silver City  
4 community based outpatient clinic, Vietnam veterans of America  
5 Chapter 358 and other necessary organizations to study the  
6 unmet behavioral health and primary health care needs of  
7 veterans in southwestern New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that findings of the study be  
9 reported to the legislative military and veterans' affairs  
10 committee on or before November 1, 2012; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an action plan be developed,  
12 following the report to the military and veterans' affairs  
13 committee, that will promote an increase in veterans' services  
14 in the Grant county area; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services.

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