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HOUSE MEMORIAL 10

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

INTRODUCED BY

Tara Jaramillo and Eleanor Chávez and Meredith A. Dixon  
and Harry Garcia and Gail Armstrong

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT A JOINT TASK FORCE BE CONVENED BY THE CHILDREN,  
YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT AND THE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY  
DEPARTMENT TO MAKE IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM STRATEGY  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE TO SOLVE THE ACUTE CRISIS OF  
FOSTER CHILDREN SLEEPING IN STATE OFFICE BUILDINGS.

WHEREAS, foster children in state custody are sleeping in  
children, youth and families department office buildings; and

WHEREAS, these foster children are living in unsafe  
offices because the state is unable to find appropriate  
placements for these children, many of whom are older and have  
behavioral and mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, children, youth and families department  
employees, with limited resources, try their best to find  
foster homes and treatment programs where these children can

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 thrive;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a joint task  
4 force be convened by the children, youth and families  
5 department and the health care authority department to help  
6 remedy the minimal behavioral health services and residential  
7 treatment facilities for older foster youth; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint task force identify  
9 methods to recruit and retain trauma-informed foster parents  
10 who can care for older youth with mental and behavioral  
11 challenges; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint task force make  
13 immediate and long-term strategy recommendations to the  
14 legislature to solve the acute crisis of foster children  
15 sleeping in state office buildings; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families,  
18 the secretary of health care authority and the governor.