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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the interagency behavioral health
purchasing collaborative be requested 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; and

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

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

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

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