SENATE MEMORIAL 144

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn and Linda M. Lopez

A MEMORIAL

ASKING THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO CONDUCT LISTENING SESSIONS IN VARIOUS GEOGRAPHIC
REGIONS OF THE STATE WITH VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS,
REPRESENTATIVES OF CITIES, COUNTIES, NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS,
TRIBES AND PUEBLOS, AND THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT TO
ASSESS WHAT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OR POLICIES ARE NEEDED AND TO
IMPLEMENT THEM TO HELP PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDE IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, according to the United States department of
veterans affairs, in 2014, an average of twenty veterans died
from suicide each day; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, veterans constituted eight and one-half
percent of the United States population and, in that year,
veterans accounted for eighteen percent of all deaths from
suicide among adults in the United States; and

.206829.2

1   WHEREAS, there is a high incidence of suicide among

2   middle-aged and older veterans; and

3   WHEREAS, in 2014, sixty-five percent of all veteran

4   suicide victims were age fifty years or older; and

5   WHEREAS, screening and assessment processes have been set

6   up throughout the department of veterans affairs system to

7   assist in the identification of patients at risk for suicide;

8   and

9   WHEREAS, predictive modeling is used to determine which

10   veterans may be at highest risk of suicide, so providers can

11   intervene early; and

12   WHEREAS, veterans at the highest risk are identified

13   before clinical signs of suicide are evident to save lives

14   before crises occur; and

15   WHEREAS, the United States department of veterans affairs

16   is implementing a multifaceted system to take a proactive

17   approach to combat veteran suicide, including tele-mental

18   health services, software applications, telephone coaching and

19   leveraging veteran centers and universities; and

20   WHEREAS, it is of critical importance to consider which

21   tools would be most effective to prevent veteran suicide in New

22   Mexico, and to implement them;

23   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

24   OF NEW MEXICO that the veterans' services department be asked

25   to convene a task force to conduct listening sessions in

.206829.2

1   various geographic regions of the state with veterans

2   organizations, representatives of cities, counties, Native

3   American nations, tribes and pueblos, and the workforce

4   solutions department to assess what additional support or

5   policies are needed to help prevent veteran suicide in New

6   Mexico and to implement them; and

7   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to

8   report its findings to the interim legislative military and

9   veterans' affairs committee; and

10   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

11 transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services, the

12 secretary of workforce solutions, the secretary of Indian

13 affairs and members of the interim legislative military and

14 veterans' affairs committee.

15   - 3 -

.206829.2