A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE DRUG POLICY TASK FORCE IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ITS COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN BASED ON THE FOUR PILLAR APPROACH.

WHEREAS, the forty-ninth legislature passed Senate Memorial 33 requesting the university of New Mexico's Robert Wood Johnson foundation center for health policy to create a drug policy task force to evaluate New Mexico's approach to alleviating the negative consequences associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs; and

WHEREAS, the drug policy task force met seven times between June and December of 2010, inviting designees appointed by the New Mexico legislative council; representatives from the office of the governor, the office of the lieutenant governor, the corrections department, the department of health, the children, youth and families department, the human services department, the public education department, the legislative finance committee, the DWI grant council, the aging and long-term services department, county detention facilities, the administrative office of the courts, the department of public safety, the interagency behavioral health purchasing collaborative, the
Behavioral health planning council, the University of New Mexico, the New Mexico Association of Counties, the Drug Policy Alliance and the New Mexico Women's Justice Project; two individuals with criminal drug convictions; and two individuals in recovery from substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, the drug policy task force utilized a four-pillar approach to examine prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement in order to develop strategies for effective change in New Mexico's drug policy; and

WHEREAS, the initial comprehensive statewide strategic plan that was developed by the task force includes a section on current approaches to drug policy, addressing the number and geography of people impacted and local and statewide assessments of services and needs; a section on prevention recommendations; and a section on treatment recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the drug policy task force was directed to compile a list of expenditures for prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement and an assessment of the effectiveness of current programs, but the task force was unable to complete the process of gathering this data and information prior to the start of the first session of the fiftieth legislature; and

WHEREAS, the task force was directed to develop a list of evaluation measures to include the impact of drug abuse on
youth, rates of drug overdose fatalities, rates of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, access to treatment, the number of incarcerated, nonviolent drug law offenders, access to alternatives to incarceration and racial disparities exacerbated by the criminal justice system, but the task force was unable to complete the process of gathering this data prior to the first session of the fiftieth legislature; and

WHEREAS, the drug policy task force presented its initial findings to the interim legislative health and human services committee, the interim courts, corrections and justice committee and the legislative finance committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the university of New Mexico's Robert Wood Johnson foundation center for health policy be requested to continue the work of the drug policy task force in order to complete its comprehensive statewide strategic plan based on the four pillar approach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force continue to evaluate New Mexico's approach to alleviating the negative consequences associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its final comprehensive statewide strategic plan, including conclusions and recommendations, to the interim legislative
health and human services committee, courts, corrections and
justice committee, the legislative finance committee and
other appropriate interim legislative committees by November
2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan and all
of its conclusions and recommendations be made available to
other interested legislative committees, executive agencies
and the public through publication on the center for health
policy's web site; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the director of the Robert Wood Johnson
foundation center for health policy and to each of the
agencies and organizations named in this memorial as
participants on the task force.