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SENATE MEMORIAL 55

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

INTRODUCED BY

Howie Morales

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS
TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF SEXUAL
ASSAULT IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, sixty-six percent of incidents of sexual violence
in New Mexico are committed against children and adolescents,
compared with fifty-four percent nationally; and

WHEREAS, thirty-eight percent of incidents of sexual abuse
of children occur in the child's home; and

WHEREAS, in over eighty percent of incidents of sexual
violence, the perpetrators are people the victims know; and

WHEREAS, more than twenty-five percent of male rape
victims were first raped when they were ten years old or
younger; and

WHEREAS, eighty-three percent of victims do not report the

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1 crime, yet many still seek confidential help from New Mexico's
2 rape crisis centers and thirteen sexual assault nurse
3 examiners; and

4 WHEREAS, crime victimization costs the United States four
5 hundred fifty billion dollars (\$450,000,000,000) annually, with
6 rape being the most costly at one hundred twenty-seven billion
7 dollars (\$127,000,000,000); and

8 WHEREAS, child and adult victims of sexual violence
9 experience changes in physiology caused by trauma that can lead
10 to a lifetime of depression, suicide attempts, physical health
11 problems and substance abuse, and they are more likely to
12 experience incidents of future sexual violence; and

13 WHEREAS, victims who receive services from the specially
14 trained staff at rape crisis centers and sexual assault nurse
15 examiner services are more likely to heal from the trauma and
16 regain their health; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexicans believe that if the state was free
18 from the incidence of sexual violence, individuals could
19 participate fully in society and be free from the negative
20 long-term physical and psychological effects of sexual
21 violence;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico coalition of sexual assault
24 programs be requested to convene a task force to study the high
25 incidence of sexual assault in New Mexico and the prevention

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1 and treatment services available or needed and professional
2 training needed by law enforcement and district attorneys,
3 medical professionals, public and private schools, higher
4 educational institutions and state agencies to identify,
5 report, prosecute and treat sexual assault; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
7 survivors of sexual assault and representatives of law
8 enforcement, the child safe house network, domestic violence
9 centers, rape crisis centers, service providers, sexual assault
10 nurse examiners and the university of New Mexico prevention
11 resource center; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report to the
13 interim legislative health and human services committee and the
14 courts, corrections and justice committee by November 1, 2012;
15 and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the New Mexico coalition of sexual assault
18 programs for appropriate distribution.