

1 A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, children, youth and families department
16 employees, with limited resources, try their best to find
17 foster homes and treatment programs where these children can
18 thrive;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a joint task
21 force be convened by the children, youth and families
22 department and the health care authority department to help
23 remedy the minimal behavioral health services and residential
24 treatment facilities for older foster youth; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint task force

1 identify methods to recruit and retain trauma-informed foster
2 parents who can care for older youth with mental and
3 behavioral challenges; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint task force make
5 immediate and long-term strategy recommendations to the
6 legislature to solve the acute crisis of foster children
7 sleeping in state office buildings; and

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

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