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SENATE MEMORIAL 28

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION TO CONVENE A
STATEWIDE CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE TO STUDY GUN VIOLENCE IN
NEW MEXICO AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING THE
ISSUE.

WHEREAS, gun violence is a serious issue affecting
communities across the United States, including in New Mexico,
with a significant number of deaths and injuries resulting from
gun-related incidents; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has the third-highest overall gun
death rate in the country; and

WHEREAS, according to everytown for gun safety, gun
violence has risen in the state of New Mexico, with the gun
death rate growing by forty-five percent between 2015 and 2024,
outpacing the national increase of eighteen percent; and

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1 WHEREAS, the department of health found that between 2019
2 and 2023, guns were the second leading cause of death for
3 children between the ages of twelve and eighteen; and

4 WHEREAS, according to everytown for gun safety, firearms
5 are the leading cause of death for children and teens in the
6 United States; and

7 WHEREAS, every year, nearly twenty-two thousand children
8 and teens are shot and killed or wounded, and approximately
9 three million are exposed to gun violence; and

10 WHEREAS, schools have been struggling to respond to the
11 increase in school closures due to threats, violence and school
12 shootings; and

13 WHEREAS, an increasing number of New Mexico schools have
14 received hoax shooting calls, invoking shelter-in-place and
15 other responses that cause disruptions at the schools; and

16 WHEREAS, the lag in law enforcement response time to
17 incidences of shootings, violence or hoaxes in rural areas is
18 especially frustrating; and

19 WHEREAS, a scarcity of law enforcement organizations,
20 aside from the Navajo Nation police, in rural areas from Gallup
21 to Tohatchi to Shiprock affects response times to reports of
22 shootings and violence; and

23 WHEREAS, no reliable data exist regarding law enforcement
24 response times in rural areas from Gallup to Tohatchi to
25 Shiprock, an example of the gaps in data that exist; and

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1 WHEREAS, a 2025 everytown for gun safety study found that
2 in New Mexico, a single nonfatal gun injury results in more
3 than six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) in expenses
4 related to law enforcement response, the criminal justice
5 system, medical care, lost wages and diminished quality of life
6 for victims and their families, and a single gun-related
7 homicide costs more than twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000);
8 and

9 WHEREAS, combined with the state's high rate of gun
10 violence, New Mexico bears the fifth-highest per-capita cost of
11 gun violence in the nation. At a time when the state faces
12 uncertainty due to reductions in federal funding, it cannot
13 afford to overlook a problem that costs taxpayers more than one
14 hundred forty million dollars (\$140,000,000) annually; and

15 WHEREAS, addressing the root causes of gun violence
16 requires a comprehensive public health approach that is
17 evidence-based and needs to involve collaboration among various
18 stakeholders; and

19 WHEREAS, a statewide task force focused on gun violence
20 prevention could play a crucial role in identifying strategies
21 and policies that could help to reduce the incidence of gun
22 violence and enhance public safety; and

23 WHEREAS, a statewide crime prevention task force could
24 bring together diverse perspectives from law enforcement,
25 health care professionals, community leaders, gun owners and

1 advocates for gun violence prevention;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
3 OF NEW MEXICO that the crime victims reparation commission be
4 requested to convene a statewide crime prevention task force to
5 study the issue of gun violence in New Mexico and to make
6 recommendations for addressing the issue; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide crime prevention
8 task force be composed of representatives of the crime victims
9 reparation commission, the public education department, the
10 higher education department, the department of public safety,
11 the department of health, the health care authority, the
12 children, youth and families department, the department of game
13 and fish, the university of New Mexico, Indian nations, tribes
14 and pueblos of New Mexico, pueblo law enforcement and federal
15 and local law enforcement agencies, gun advocates and
16 distributors and anti-domestic violence and sexual assault
17 groups; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide crime prevention
19 task force be requested to address the following objectives:

20 A. to study the root causes and contributing
21 factors of gun violence in New Mexico and identify evidence-
22 based strategies and policies that can effectively reduce the
23 incidence of gun violence in the state;

24 B. to examine current state and federal laws
25 related to gun ownership, possession and use and to recommend

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1 measures that can enhance public safety while respecting the
2 second amendment rights of law-abiding citizens;

3 C. to examine ways to promote public education and
4 awareness about the risks of gun violence and the importance of
5 responsible gun ownership and storage; and

6 D. to engage with community leaders, law
7 enforcement officials, health care professionals and other
8 stakeholders to develop and implement effective strategies and
9 policies to prevent gun violence and enhance public safety; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide crime prevention
11 task force be requested to create different stakeholder tables
12 with different parties in order to define the problems,
13 identify the risk and protective factors, define effective
14 strategies and identify ways to develop and test prevention
15 strategies; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide crime prevention
17 task force be requested to report its findings and conclusions
18 to the interim committee dealing with courts, corrections and
19 justice issues, the legislative health and human services
20 committee and the governor; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the crime victims reparation commission for
23 distribution to members of the statewide crime prevention task
24 force.