

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 9

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto and Brenda G. McKenna and Linda M. López
and Harold Pope and Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION TO CONVENE A
STATEWIDE GUN VIOLENCE 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 New Mexico,
with a significant number of deaths and injuries resulting from
gun-related incidents; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, there was a sixteen and eight-tenths
percent spike in gun deaths in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the department of health found in 2020 that at
least sixty-four percent of firearm-related deaths were
suicides, thirty-two percent were homicides involving a firearm
and three percent were a result of legal interventions; and

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, according to the federal centers for disease
2 control and prevention, guns are now the leading cause of death
3 among children and adolescents in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, schools have been struggling to respond to the
5 increase in school closures due to threats, violence and school
6 shootings; and

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

10 WHEREAS, the lag in law enforcement response time to
11 incidences of shootings, violence or hoaxes in rural areas is
12 especially frustrating; and

13 WHEREAS, a scarcity of law enforcement organizations,
14 aside from the Navajo Nation police, in the rural areas from
15 Gallup to Tohatchi to Shiprock affects response times to
16 reports of shootings and violence; and

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

20 WHEREAS, an everytown for gun safety study found the cost
21 of gun violence in New Mexico to be six billion six hundred
22 million dollars (\$6,600,000,000), of which one hundred forty-
23 one million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$141,800,000) is
24 paid by taxpayers; and

25 WHEREAS, addressing the root causes of gun violence

.227590.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 requires a comprehensive public health approach that is
2 evidence-based and needs to involve collaboration among various
3 stakeholders; and

4 WHEREAS, a statewide task force focused on gun violence
5 prevention could play a crucial role in identifying strategies
6 and policies that could help to reduce the incidence of gun
7 violence and enhance public safety; and

8 WHEREAS, a statewide gun violence prevention task force
9 could bring together diverse perspectives from law enforcement,
10 health care professionals, community leaders, gun owners and
11 advocates for gun violence prevention;

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

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide gun violence
18 prevention task force be composed of representatives of the
19 crime victims reparation commission, the public education
20 department, the higher education department, the department of
21 public safety, the department of health, the health care
22 authority department, the children, youth and families
23 department, the department of game and fish, the university of
24 New Mexico, Indian nations, tribes and pueblos of New Mexico,
25 pueblo law enforcement and federal and local law enforcement

.227590.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 agencies, gun advocates and distributors and anti-domestic
2 violence and sexual assault groups; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide gun violence
4 prevention task force be requested to address the following
5 objectives:

6 A. to study the root causes and contributing
7 factors of gun violence in New Mexico and identify evidence-
8 based strategies and policies that can effectively reduce the
9 incidence of gun violence in the state;

10 B. to examine current state and federal laws
11 related to gun ownership, possession and use and to recommend
12 measures that can enhance public safety while respecting the
13 second amendment rights of law-abiding citizens;

14 C. to examine ways to promote public education and
15 awareness about the risks of gun violence and the importance of
16 responsible gun ownership and storage; and

17 D. to engage with community leaders, law
18 enforcement officials, health care professionals and other
19 stakeholders to develop and implement effective strategies and
20 policies to prevent gun violence and enhance public safety; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide gun violence
22 prevention task force be requested to create different
23 stakeholder tables with different parties in order to define
24 the problems, identify the risk and protective factors, define
25 effective strategies and identify ways to develop and test

.227590.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 prevention strategies; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide gun violence
3 prevention task force be requested to report its findings and
4 conclusions to the interim committee dealing with courts,
5 corrections and justice issues, the legislative health and
6 human services committee and the governor; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the crime victims reparation commission for
9 distribution to task force representatives.