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SENATE MEMORIAL 1

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto

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 2023, the rate of gun-related deaths in New Mexico was eighty-three percent higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, the department of health found that between 2018 and 2022, gun-related violence rose by eighty-seven percent; and

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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, a 2022 everytown for gun safety study found the  
21 cost of gun violence in New Mexico to be six billion six  
22 hundred million dollars (\$6,600,000,000), of which one hundred  
23 forty-one million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$141,800,000)  
24 is paid by taxpayers; and

25          WHEREAS, addressing the root causes of gun violence

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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, the children, youth and families department, the  
23 department of game and fish, the university of New Mexico,  
24 Indian nations, tribes and pueblos of New Mexico, pueblo law  
25 enforcement and federal and local law enforcement agencies, gun

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1 advocates and distributors and anti-domestic violence and  
2 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

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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.