



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

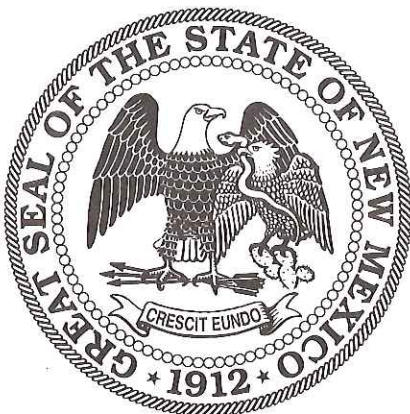
53rd Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2018

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 97

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE GAIL CHASEY



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR TO
3 WORK WITH THE GRIEF RESOURCE CENTER AND OTHERS TO DEVELOP A
4 FINANCIAL AND CARE PROPOSAL THAT INCLUDES CRITERIA NECESSARY
5 TO MEET THE GRIEF COUNSELING NEEDS OF NEW MEXICO COMMUNITIES.
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7 WHEREAS, grief counseling following a tragic loss is a
8 vital resource to New Mexico families; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico families, like other families across
10 the country, benefit from grief counseling in times of loss
11 and despair; and

12 WHEREAS, various counseling centers in the state have
13 recently closed their doors, leaving a serious void to fill
14 in this area; and

15 WHEREAS, the office of the state medical investigator at
16 the university of New Mexico provides grief counseling but
17 has also lost essential funding, and the office now has only
18 one grief counselor available, along with an internship
19 program that provides secondary support under the supervision
20 of a licensed counselor; and

21 WHEREAS, between 2014 and 2017, there were five hundred
22 sixty homicides in New Mexico, and sixty-two percent of the
23 families of those homicide victims sought intensive
24 counseling services provided by the office of the state
25 medical investigator; and

1 WHEREAS, between 2014 and 2017, the office of the state
2 medical investigator has recorded one thousand three hundred
3 fifty suicides and four thousand six hundred sixty-seven
4 accidental deaths, and the office has been unable to provide
5 services to the families of those victims due to the shortage
6 of counselors; and

7 WHEREAS, the grief counseling community, such as the
8 grief resource center, recognizes the need to collaborate
9 with the office of the state medical investigator to maximize
10 grief counseling resources for families and individuals that
11 have experienced the death of loved ones; and

12 WHEREAS, these collaborative efforts also provide
13 training to first responders, funeral directors and hospice
14 personnel so they may also better serve the grief community;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, it is imperative to the health and social
17 welfare of New Mexicans that proper resources and funding be
18 committed to grief counseling in the state;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of
21 the state medical investigator be requested to work with the
22 grief resource center and all other relevant stakeholders to
23 develop a financial and care proposal that includes the
24 criteria that are necessary to meet the grief counseling
25 needs of New Mexico communities; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of the state medical investigator be requested to report its findings to the interim legislative health and human services committee by November 1, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the office of the state medical investigator and the grief resource center.



Brian Egolf, Speaker
House of Representatives



Lisa M. Ortiz McCutcheon, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives