

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING COUNCIL
3 AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND
4 DISABILITY TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A NEEDS
5 ASSESSMENT AND REPORT ON WAYS TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM OF
6 SCHOOL-TO-WORK TRANSITION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN
7 NEW MEXICO.

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9 WHEREAS, a public education department post-school
10 outcome survey in 2012 reported that employment was declining
11 for individuals with any disability, but in particular for
12 those individuals reporting a developmental disability; and

13 WHEREAS, national data from the United States department
14 of labor reflects that more than seventy percent of students
15 with disabilities leave high school each year without
16 employment prospects; and

17 WHEREAS, diminished employment prospects set a lifetime
18 pattern and expectation of dependence on public assistance,
19 poverty, inactivity and segregation from the community; and

20 WHEREAS, the federal Workforce Innovation and
21 Opportunity Act, which took effect on July 1, 2015, requires
22 that states engage in a unified strategic planning process
23 and collaborate to improve school-to-work transition outcomes
24 for students with disabilities; and

25 WHEREAS, the act provides a promising opportunity for

1 New Mexico youth with disabilities; and

2 WHEREAS, for New Mexico to successfully comply with the
3 new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act mandates, it is
4 important for state and local agencies serving youth with
5 disabilities to work cooperatively and to leverage their
6 resources; and

7 WHEREAS, successful outcomes must engage local community
8 organizations, advocacy groups and youth with disabilities
9 and their families in planning and education; and

10 WHEREAS, the creation of a task force to include young
11 adults with disabilities and state, local and community
12 stakeholders would facilitate compliance with the Workforce
13 Innovation and Opportunity Act;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the developmental disabilities
16 planning council and the university of New Mexico center for
17 development and disability be requested to convene a task
18 force to conduct a needs assessment and report on ways to
19 improve the system of school-to-work transition of students
20 with disabilities in New Mexico; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
22 to make formal recommendations for changes to existing
23 policies, programs or regulatory provisions that would:

24 A. address barriers to effective school-to-work
25 transition for youth with disabilities;

1 B. result in more effective services for youth
2 with disabilities as they make the transition from school to
3 work;

4 C. improve the efficiency of the school-to-work
5 transition process for students with disabilities;

6 D. increase the knowledge of students with
7 disabilities and their family members on transition from
8 school-to-work options; and

9 E. maximize outcomes, including lifelong
10 opportunities for persons with disabilities to obtain
11 competitive integrated employment; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed
13 of one or more young adults with disabilities who have
14 transitioned from high school to adult life and their family
15 members; and representatives of the developmental
16 disabilities planning council, the university of New Mexico
17 center for development and disability, parents reaching out,
18 the vocational rehabilitation division of the public
19 education department, the public education department, the
20 developmental disabilities supports division of the
21 department of health, the workforce solutions department,
22 youth development inc., advocacy organizations, centers for
23 independent living, the governor's commission on disability
24 and disability rights New Mexico; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its

1 findings and recommendations to the legislative education
2 study committee, the legislative health and human services
3 committee and any other appropriate legislative committee by
4 December 1, 2016; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of public
7 education, the executive director of the developmental
8 disabilities planning council and the president of the
9 university of New Mexico.

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