

HOUSE MEMORIAL 65

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

INTRODUCED BY

E. Diane Torres-Velásquez and Pamelya Herndon

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT
RESEARCH ON HEALTH AND FIREARM SAFETY POLICY AND TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE FIREARM VIOLENCE IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, firearm safety is a public issue; and

WHEREAS, firearm violence is a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, a 2024 report from Johns Hopkins center for gun violence solution highlights the ongoing crisis of firearm-related deaths in the United States, including fatalities among children; and

WHEREAS, between 2019 and 2023, firearm-related deaths were the second leading cause of death for children; and

WHEREAS, firearm-related deaths take an average of twenty-four years away from their victims; and

1 WHEREAS, domestic violence assaults involving a firearm
2 are twelve times more than likely to result in death than those
3 involving other weapons or bodily force; and

4 WHEREAS, the collective responsibility of society is to
5 safeguard the health and safety of its members, including from
6 firearm harms; and

7 WHEREAS, firearm violence is a complex problem that must
8 be met with a wide range of solutions; and

9 WHEREAS, firearm violence exacts an enormous toll on
10 American society, claiming tens of thousands of lives each
11 year; and

12 WHEREAS, more than one million Americans have been shot in
13 the past decade, and nearly everyone in the United States will
14 know at least one victim of firearm violence in their lifetime;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, in 2023, New Mexico had the fourth highest
17 overall firearm-related death rate in the country; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the department of health, suicides
19 rose by nine percent in 2024, with firearms accounting for
20 sixty percent of the cases; and

21 WHEREAS, alcohol misuse is highly associated with both
22 homicides and suicides, and New Mexico ranks first for the most
23 deaths attributable to alcohol abuse, which includes both
24 chronic diseases like cirrhosis and injuries like homicide and
25 suicide; and

1 WHEREAS, gun violence continues to be a significant public
2 health problem in New Mexico and in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, as global temperatures rise because of climate
4 change, suicide rates are likely to rise as well; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2023, New Mexico had the highest rate of gun
6 suicide among young people and New Mexico had a gun suicide
7 rate three times the national average; and

8 WHEREAS, research has shown a significant intersection
9 between gun violence and alcohol accessibility and misuse; and

10 WHEREAS, there have been two thousand nine hundred
11 eighty-one school shooting incidents from 1966 to 2025 in the
12 United States; and

13 WHEREAS, during the 2024-2025 school year, the Albuquerque
14 public school district recovered fifteen firearms;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
17 of health, in collaboration with the department of public
18 safety, be requested to convene a task force to conduct
19 research on health and firearm safety policy and to make
20 recommendations to reduce firearm violence in New Mexico; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force review and
22 consider the following:

23 A. effective firearm licensing laws and
24 regulations;

25 B. effective policies on semiautomatic and large

.232679.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 capacity magazines;

2 C. data demonstrating the effects of identifying if
3 any group should be prohibited by law from owning or purchasing
4 a firearm, especially relating to previous driving while
5 intoxicated convictions;

6 D. alignment of state and federal laws on the
7 consequences of a felon in possession of a firearm;

8 E. tobacco and firearms licensing prior to granting
9 a new retail license of a new gun or liquor stores; and

10 F. consideration of toxicology in perpetrators of
11 gun violence; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
13 representatives from the department of health; the department
14 of public safety; health care entities and hospitals; the
15 children, youth and families department; the public education
16 department; the New Mexico school boards association; community
17 and prevention stakeholders; the administrative office of the
18 courts; police chiefs of Albuquerque, Las Cruces or Santa Fe;
19 the Albuquerque community safety department; moms demand action
20 for gun sense in America; and Indian nations, tribes and
21 pueblos in New Mexico; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the task force be requested to
23 report its findings and conclusions to the representatives of
24 the task force, the interim legislative committee dealing with
25 courts, corrections and justice issues and the legislative

.232679.1

health and human services committee by September 15, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of public safety and the governor.

- 5 -

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete