

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 103

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Nancy Rodriguez

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY MET
12 AND UNMET NEEDS OF THE URBAN NATIVE AMERICANS OF SANTA FE
13 COUNTY AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

14
15 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is committed to providing
16 access to state services for its residents; and

17 WHEREAS, more than sixty-five percent of Native Americans
18 live in urban areas; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States census estimated that in 2013,
20 there were six thousand sixty-five American Indians and Alaska
21 Natives residing in Santa Fe county; and

22 WHEREAS, Santa Fe county does not yet have a physical
23 urban Native American center to provide outreach and one-stop
24 access to state services for Native Americans; and

25 WHEREAS, there is no central agency in Santa Fe county to

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1 provide a Native American person or family information on,
2 assistance with or referral to state services or to offer
3 engagement in social and cultural activities with other Native
4 American residents of the area; and

5 WHEREAS, since 2008, Native Americans residing within
6 Santa Fe county have been advocating an effort to identify the
7 needs of Native Americans in Santa Fe county and to begin to
8 address urgent issues facing Native Americans in Santa Fe
9 county; and

10 WHEREAS, multiple state services are not efficiently
11 reaching the Native American population of Santa Fe county; and

12 WHEREAS, Santa Fe county has a Native American middle/high
13 school, a national Native American arts college, the Santa Fe
14 Indian hospital, several museums featuring Native American arts
15 and culture, numerous galleries and shops selling Native
16 American art and the largest Indian market in the country, all
17 of which draw mobile populations of Native Americans that are
18 difficult to identify, count and serve; and

19 WHEREAS, there is a need to understand the demographics of
20 the Native American population of Santa Fe county, including
21 the number of Native Americans residing in or commuting into
22 Santa Fe county, their tribal affiliations, ages and economic
23 status and the types of services needed; and

24 WHEREAS, seventy-nine percent of the Native American
25 students in Santa Fe public schools are currently on free or

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1 reduced-fee lunch status; and

2 WHEREAS, the demand for emergency assistance to Native
3 American individuals and families in need in Santa Fe county is
4 beyond the current capacity of volunteers; and

5 WHEREAS, the Santa Fe Indian Center works collaboratively
6 with the city of Santa Fe, the Pueblo of Tesuque, Wings of
7 America, Americans for Indian Opportunity, the Native Fund and
8 many other organizations; and

9 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is operating without a
10 clear understanding of the need and degree of services required
11 by the Native American population of Santa Fe county;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
13 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to form a task
14 force for the purpose of collecting data detailing the met and
15 unmet needs of Native Americans residing in Santa Fe county,
16 which data should:

17 A. detail how many Native Americans in Santa Fe
18 county are served by state services and how they are served,
19 each state entity served and how they are served;

20 B. document the demographics of Native Americans in
21 Santa Fe county; and

22 C. compare the number of Native Americans served by
23 state services with the number of Native Americans needing
24 state services; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the data collected by the task

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1 force be used to make recommendations for the increased
2 efficiency of services to the urban Indians of Santa Fe county;
3 and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Indian affairs department
5 oversee the collection of data and identify services provided
6 by the state of New Mexico to Native Americans residing in or
7 commuting into Santa Fe county using the tribal liaison created
8 pursuant to the State-Tribal Collaboration Act as the task
9 force, and formulate recommendations for how the state can more
10 efficiently meet the unmet needs of Native Americans residing
11 in and commuting into Santa Fe county; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Indian affairs department
13 call on outside groups such as the Santa Fe Indian center, the
14 Pueblo of Tesuque, the federal Indian health service and other
15 local, state and national Native American or non-Native
16 American Indian organizations to assist in gathering data,
17 identifying resources and unmet needs, and assist with
18 formulating recommendations for more efficiently meeting unmet
19 needs; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Indian affairs department
21 report to the appropriate interim legislative committees by
22 September 30, 2015 its conclusions from the collected data and
23 its recommendations for how the state can better meet the
24 identified unmet needs of native Americans residing in and
25 commuting into Santa Fe county; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of Indian
3 affairs.

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