

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, Second Session

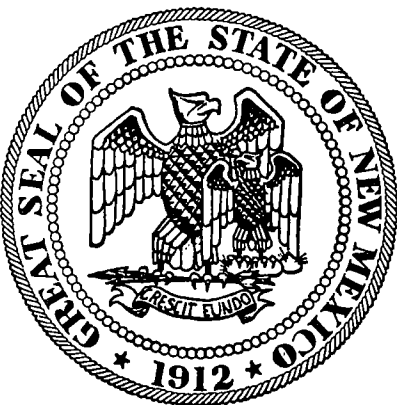
LAWS 2008

CHAPTER _____

SENATE MEMORIAL 9, as amended

Introduced by

SENATOR JOSEPH J. CARRARO



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION
3 CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY POSSIBLE CORRELATIONS BETWEEN
4 ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS AND TO
5 RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS ANY CORRELATION.
6

7 WHEREAS, the federal food and drug administration issued
8 a public warning in October 2004 about an increased risk of
9 suicidal thoughts or behaviors in children and adolescents
10 treated with a class of antidepressant medications called
11 selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2006, an advisory committee to the federal
13 food and drug administration recommended that the federal
14 food and drug administration issue a public warning about an
15 increased risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors in young
16 adults up to the age of twenty-five who are taking selective
17 serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and

18 WHEREAS, in September 2007, a study, published in the
19 *American Journal of Psychiatry*, found that there is not a
20 positive correlation between antidepressants and suicidal
21 thoughts or behaviors in young people; and

22 WHEREAS, studies and professional organizations disagree
23 as to whether the prescription of antidepressant medications
24 should be further regulated or further protocols developed to
25 guard against suicidal thoughts or behaviors among young

1 people; and

2 WHEREAS, according to the treatment for adolescents with
3 depression study, funded by the national institute of mental
4 health, a combination of medication and psychotherapy is the
5 most effective treatment for adolescents with depression; and

6 WHEREAS, the federal food and drug administration has
7 issued guidelines stating that individuals who take
8 antidepressants must be carefully monitored for worsening
9 depression, suicidal thoughts or suicidal behaviors; and

10 WHEREAS, on the basis that some physicians are
11 inadequately monitoring or are unaware of the risks that
12 antidepressants may pose for young people, the state of
13 California has considered legislation that would require all
14 family practice physicians who treat depression by
15 prescribing antidepressants to undergo mandatory continuing
16 medical education on the subject of antidepressant
17 medications;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy
20 commission be requested to convene a task force comprising
21 experts from the human services department and the department
22 of health; medical and behavioral health providers; and other
23 health care and health policy experts to investigate whether
24 there is a correlation between antidepressant drugs and
25 suicidal thoughts and behaviors and to recommend policy

1 solutions to address the correlation, if it exists; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
3 to examine whether providers who prescribe antidepressants
4 should be required to undergo mandatory continuing medical
5 education on the subject of antidepressant medications in
6 order to provide expertise in monitoring the risks that may
7 be associated with antidepressants in young people; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the New Mexico health policy commission. _____

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s/Diane D. Denish

Diane D. Denish, President
Senate

s/Lenore M. Naranjo

Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
Senate