



**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2017-24**

**Opposing House Bill 175, House Bill 242, and Senate Bill 185 Relating to the Enactment of  
“The Isolated Confinement Act”**

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Legislator has introduced House Bill 175, House Bill 242, and Senate Bill 185 each of which are substantially similar in content, and seek to impose very expensive, unfunded, new obligations and duties upon county detention centers including the Roosevelt County Detention Center relating to the placement of inmates who under detention standards should properly be placed in isolated confinement because of their conduct, for their personal safety, or for other appropriate reasons; and,

**WHEREAS**, these three (3) proposed Bills ignore mandated detention and prison standards relating to administrative confinement of inmates, including inmates in an isolated confinement setting; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Bills would require small detention facilities such as the Roosevelt County Detention Facility to conduct full mental health assessments on detainees who are admitted to the facility, but who are suffering from mental health disorders at the time of their admission; and,

**WHEREAS**, the enactment of these Bills would require small detention facilities such as the Roosevelt County Detention Center to hire a psychologist and/or psychiatric nurse practitioner on a full-time basis to conduct mental health assessments for every detainee as part of the admission classification and placement of such detainees into the Detention Facility; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Bills would also place affirmative reporting obligations upon small detention facilities including the Roosevelt County Detention Center requiring them to prepare detailed, technical reports every three (3) months relating to any detainee who suffers from mental health disorders and whose mental diagnosis meets the criteria requiring administrative separation and/or isolated confinement, but without providing funding to retain mental health professionals capable of preparing and administering such reporting requirements; and,

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the adoption of House Bill 175, House Bill 242, and/or Senate Bill 185 would impose enormous unfunded financial obligations upon small detention facilities at a time when such facilities and the counties operating the same including Roosevelt County are suffering severe financial hardship due to a lack of State and Federal assistance to meet their current needs much less to assume the responsibility, to care for the mentally ill.



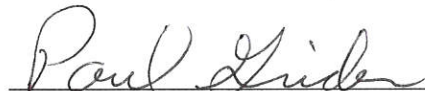
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ROOSEVELT COUNTY THAT** the Roosevelt County Board of Commissioners publicly oppose the adoption of House Bill 175, House Bill 242, and Senate Bill 185. The enactment of any of these three (3) Bills, which are substantially identical in content, would place enormous unfunded obligations upon the Roosevelt County Detention Center and Roosevelt County which it would be unable to meet. These Bills ignore the simple fact that the State of New Mexico has failed to provide adequate mental health facilities to care for people suffering from mental disorders or to provide the necessary care and service for individuals suffering from serious mental health disorders and as a result are presently forced to be housed in small detention facilities such as the Roosevelt County Detention Center. For each of these reasons, the Roosevelt County Commission opposes the adoption of House Bill 175, House Bill 242, and/or Senate Bill 185.

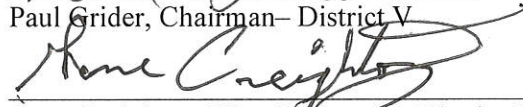
**PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** this 7th day of March, 2017.


ATTEST:

  
DeAun D. Searl, Roosevelt County Clerk

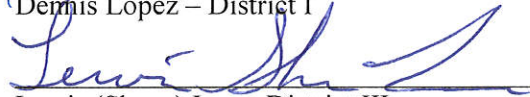
**BODY OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

  
Paul Grider, Chairman – District V

  
Gene Creighton, Vice Chairman – District IV

  
Matt Hunton – District II

  
Dennis Lopez – District I

  
Lewis (Shane) Lee – District III

