

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 8

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Jay C. Block

10 A MEMORIAL

11 HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN NEW MEXICO.

13 WHEREAS, more than eight hundred thousand law enforcement
14 officers in the United States risk their lives daily to serve
15 and protect their communities, including approximately four
16 thousand six hundred law enforcement officers in New Mexico;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, there are now more than twenty-four thousand
19 names on the walls of the national law enforcement officers
20 memorial, reflecting the names of law enforcement officers who
21 have died in the line of duty in the United States since 1786,
22 including one hundred sixty-two from New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers perform their dangerous
24 and difficult jobs honorably and professionally, with an
25 overwhelming majority of Americans reporting positive

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 interactions with law enforcement officers; and

2 WHEREAS, innovative and dedicated efforts by law
3 enforcement officers have been successful in reducing crime
4 rates over the past thirty years from historic highs in the
5 nineteen-nineties; and

6 WHEREAS, in recent years, law enforcement officers have
7 faced increasingly hostile environments and threats to their
8 safety, with over seventy-nine thousand officers assaulted in
9 2023, the highest rate of assaults against officers in years,
10 and one thousand fifty-five officers have been shot in the line
11 of duty in the past three years in the United States, resulting
12 in the deaths of one hundred seventy-two officers; and

13 WHEREAS, during the past year, law enforcement officers
14 employed by United States immigration and customs enforcement
15 have experienced a dramatic escalation in threats and
16 hostilities directed against them in carrying out their duties
17 across the United States, including a one thousand three
18 hundred percent increase in assaults, a three thousand two
19 hundred percent increase in vehicular attacks and an eight
20 thousand percent increase in death threats, according to
21 statistics provided by the United States department of homeland
22 security; and

23 WHEREAS, according to the national law enforcement
24 officers memorial fund, more than two thousand five hundred law
25 enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in the

.232761.2

1 United States in the past ten years; and

2 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers typically encounter an
3 average of four hundred to six hundred traumatic events in the
4 course of their careers, compared to three or four such events
5 for the average citizen; and

6 WHEREAS, the high number of traumatic events experienced
7 by law enforcement officers has contributed to a suicide rate
8 that is fifty-four percent higher than workers in other
9 professions; and

10 WHEREAS, the number of full-time state and local law
11 enforcement officers in the United States dropped by more than
12 five percent between 2019 and 2021, the equivalent of losing
13 thirty-seven thousand officers, leaving state and local
14 agencies with dangerously low levels of sworn officers to serve
15 and protect communities; and

16 WHEREAS, supporting law enforcement officers with the
17 equipment, training and funding needed to protect communities
18 from criminal acts and violence has long received overwhelming
19 public support across the political spectrum;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
21 OF NEW MEXICO that law enforcement officers be highly respected
22 and valued in New Mexico and greatly appreciated for all they
23 do to serve and protect their communities; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that law enforcement officers who
25 have died in the line of duty, and the families of those who

.232761.2

have died in the line of duty, be remembered and honored; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all levels of government in

New Mexico be requested to work to ensure that law enforcement officers receive the support and resources needed to keep all New Mexico communities safe and to undertake measures to maximize the safety and well-being of all law enforcement officers, including increased police personnel, improved training and equipment, increased penalties for violent acts against law enforcement officers and increased mental health resources for law enforcement officers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the secretary of public safety, the chair of the New Mexico sheriffs' association, the president of the New Mexico association of chiefs of police and the president of citizens behind the badge.

- 4 -

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

.232761.2