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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT AND
THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT TO INCORPORATE AND IMPLEMENT
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS FOR JUVENILE AND ADULT OFFENDERS
AS A METHOD TO HELP HEAL VICTIMS OF CRIME, REDUCE RECIDIVISM,
FACILITATE OFFENDER REINTEGRATION AND PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES TO
INCARCERATION.

WHEREAS, crime increases fear, reduces quality of life
and causes injury to victims, survivors and communities; and

WHEREAS, while the criminal justice system prosecutes
and punishes offenders, the emotional and physical damage to
people and communities may often go unresolved; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice programs seek to repair the
harm caused by crime through a comprehensive and cooperative
process that enables the victim, the offender and affected
members of the community to be directly involved in
responding to the crime; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice is a theory of justice that
is based on the common values and principles of
accountability, reparation, reintegration, inclusion and
effective communication; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice programs promote healing
for the victim by allowing the victim to voluntarily meet the
offender, to express the impacts of the crime and to

1 encourage the offender to take responsibility for the
2 resulting harm; and

3 WHEREAS, restorative justice rehabilitates offenders and
4 reintegrates them into the community by providing an
5 opportunity for the victim, the offender and community
6 members to develop a plan to address the harm together; and

7 WHEREAS, the shared responsibility in finding
8 constructive resolutions to crime gives communities a
9 meaningful voice in the cause and effect of crime in their
10 communities; and

11 WHEREAS, the community-centered approach of restorative
12 justice programs can contribute to reductions in recidivism,
13 increased compliance with restitution agreements and victim
14 satisfaction; and

15 WHEREAS, restorative justice practices can reduce costs
16 to the criminal justice system by providing alternatives to
17 incarceration and decreasing judicial caseloads over time;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families
20 department and the corrections department be requested to
21 incorporate and implement restorative justice programs for
22 juvenile and adult offenders as a method to help heal victims
23 of crime, reduce recidivism, facilitate offender
24 reintegration and provide alternatives to incarceration; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of children,

1 youth and families and the secretary of corrections be
2 requested to report their progress in incorporating and
3 implementing restorative justice programs for juvenile and
4 adult offenders to the appropriate interim legislative
5 committee by November 1, 2007; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families
8 and the secretary of corrections. _____

SJM 2
Page 3

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