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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY
Delores C. Wright

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT RULES ON
PEST CONTROL IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, children are especially vulnerable to the toxic
effects of chemicals; and

WHEREAS, children deserve environmentally safe schools
that promote good health, well-being and learning; and

WHEREAS, many pesticides are known to be neurotoxic and
to have adverse effects upon memory, attention, concentration
and overall learning; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown a connection between
exposure to pesticides and violent behavior; and

WHEREAS, the use of chemical pesticides can be
significantly reduced by adopting integrated pest management
policies that rely primarily on mechanical, physical,
cultural and biological measures to control pests; and

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1 WHEREAS, integrated pest management programs encourage
2 the avoidance of pesticides whenever possible and reserve the
3 application of chemical pesticides for when other methods
4 have failed; and

5 WHEREAS, pesticide applicators are becoming more
6 cognizant of the techniques and benefits of integrated pest
7 management; and

8 WHEREAS, integrated pest management is cost effective
9 and has been successfully implemented in public schools
10 across the country, including schools in Texas, Maryland,
11 Michigan, Oregon and California, and in schools in New
12 Mexico, including Freedom high school in Albuquerque and the
13 university of New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, integrated pest management in schools is
15 endorsed by the United States environmental protection
16 agency, the national parent teacher association and the
17 national education association; and

18 WHEREAS, most New Mexico public schools do not practice
19 integrated pest management, spray pesticides routinely and do
20 not notify school occupants prior to pesticide applications;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, school districts can avail themselves of
23 numerous free and inexpensive resources for implementing
24 integrated pest management;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state board of education be
requested to adopt rules that eliminate the routine or

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underscoring material = new
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1 calendar spraying of pesticides in New Mexico public schools,
2 require notification of parents, guardians, students,
3 teachers and staff when pesticides are used, require licensed
4 applicators to apply pesticides to school buildings and
5 grounds and require records of pesticide use to be kept at
6 each school; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the state board of education and the director
9 of the legislative education study committee staff for
10 appropriate distribution.

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