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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Delores C. Wright

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**ENCOURAGING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A RULE
RELATING TO PEST CONTROL.**

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

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1 policies that rely primarily on mechanical, physical, cultural
2 and biological measures to control pests; and

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, most New Mexico public schools do not practice
21 integrated pest management; and

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

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

. 134834. 1

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state board of education be
2 encouraged to adopt a rule relating to the most effective means
3 of implementing integrated pest management in New Mexico
4 schools, and, in the meantime, encourage schools to notify
5 parents and school occupants prior to the application of
6 pesticides whenever possible and to make applications when the
7 premises are unoccupied; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board of education
9 report to the legislative education study committee by December
10 1, 2001 on its rule and promotional activities related to
11 integrated pest management; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the state board of education and the director of
14 the legislative education study committee staff for appropriate
15 distribution.