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**HOUSE MEMORIAL 39**

**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003**

**INTRODUCED BY**

Max Coll

**A MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT A NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT  
OF PEACE.**

**WHEREAS, the framers of the United States constitution  
declared that the achievement of peace is recognized as one of  
the highest duties of the new organization of free and  
independent states; and**

**WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 1 of the constitution of New  
Mexico declares the United States constitution to be the  
supreme law of the land; and**

**WHEREAS, finding peaceful solutions to problems and  
conflicts is, therefore, a fundamental American value, and  
peace is an organizing principle by which to coordinate  
services to every level of society; and**

**WHEREAS, peace promotes justice and democratic principles**

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1 to expand human rights and promotes the development of human  
2 potential; and

3 WHEREAS, a department of peace would provide a vehicle to:

4 A. create a climate of respect, cooperation, safety  
5 and nonviolence for our citizens, our children and future  
6 generations;

7 B. ensure the betterment of humanity by instilling  
8 hope, inner peace and compassion and by making the citizens and  
9 government officials of New Mexico aware of the high benefits  
10 of peacemaking;

11 C. encourage the use of dialogue, diplomacy,  
12 negotiation and goodwill at all levels of public life and  
13 discourse;

14 D. teach mediation and alternative dispute  
15 resolution techniques throughout the state in public schools  
16 and state government, including provision of written and  
17 electronic materials pertaining to mediation, negotiation,  
18 diplomacy and peacemaking and the provision of resources to  
19 those who cannot afford professional legal services; and

20 E. study the relationship between the use of  
21 negotiation and the lowering of incidents of hostility,  
22 criminal behavior, domestic violence, dropout rates, costly  
23 litigation and expensive incarceration; and

24 WHEREAS, accumulated injustice and hatred, when  
25 persistently ignored, incites those who have been given no

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1 voice and no place at the table to desperate and destructive  
2 acts; and

3 WHEREAS, the positive, social and healing force of peace  
4 is the only possibility for sustaining life on our planet;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a New Mexico  
7 department of peace be supported and the legislative finance  
8 committee be directed to determine the costs to create such a  
9 department; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the governor and the chairman of the legislative  
12 finance committee.

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