1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 94			
2	46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003			
3	INTRODUCED BY			
4	Sue Wilson Beffort			
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10	A JOINT MEMORIAL			
11	REQUESTING THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND EACH LOCAL			
12	SCHOOL BOARD ENSURE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHILE ON DUTY			
13	REFRAIN FROM EXPRESSING PERSONAL OPINIONS REGARDING WORLD			
14	EVENTS AND THE ACTIONS OF POLITICAL LEADERS.			
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16	WHEREAS, New Mexico's public school teachers, athletic			
17	coaches, instructors, instructional assistants, administrators			
18	and other employees are entrusted with a substantial portion of			
19	the education and training provided to our children; and			
20	WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of those teachers and			
21	other employees hold that trust to be sacred and perform their			
22	duties to the highest of standards; and			
23	WHEREAS, age- and course-appropriate classroom instruction			
24	necessarily includes varying levels of informed, disinterested			
25	and dispassionate discussion of current and past world events			

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1 and actions by political leaders; and

WHEREAS, students should be encouraged to participate in those age- and course-appropriate discussions and should feel free to express their own views as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, public school teachers and other school employees, while on duty, should focus on the performance of their jobs, which, depending on the course and grade level taught, may necessarily include informed instruction on and disinterested and dispassionate discussions of world events and the actions of political leaders; and

WHEREAS, in no case is it appropriate for public school teachers or other public school employees while on duty to express their personal opinions on world events or the actions of political leaders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state board of education and each local school board be requested to ensure that public school teachers and other public school employees while on duty refrain from expressing their personal opinions on world events and the actions of political leaders regardless of whether such expressions are in the form of verbal or written statements; the wearing of personal attire, lapel pins, buttons or similar items; and the display in classrooms or other school property where students gather of posters, bumper stickers or similar material; and

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	1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memori			
		2	transmitted to the members of the state board of education and	
		3	the president of each local school board in New Mexico.	
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