

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 60

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE STATE UNIVERSITIES TO COLLABORATE TO IMPLEMENT SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS IN ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND ALL INSTITUTIONS LISTED IN ARTICLE 12, SECTION 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks number one in suicide rates among states in the nation; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the third-leading cause of death for youth fifteen to twenty-five years of age; the second-leading cause of death for youth ten to fourteen years of age; and the second-leading cause of death for college students according to the national association of suicidology; and

WHEREAS, according to the New Mexico youth risk and

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1 resiliency survey for 2003, students were asked questions
2 pertaining to feelings of sadness, depression and suicidal
3 thoughts and the findings showed that twenty and six-tenths
4 percent of females and thirteen and six-tenths percent of males
5 in grades nine through twelve seriously considered suicide in
6 2003; and

7 WHEREAS, the survey also showed that a total of fifteen
8 and nine-tenths percent of New Mexico youth reported that in
9 the year prior to the survey they had developed a suicide plan;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the survey also found that fourteen and one-half
12 percent of young people attempted suicide in the year prior to
13 the survey and seven and one-half percent were seriously
14 injured due to a suicide attempt; and

15 WHEREAS, statistics show that more young adults die from
16 suicide than die from cancer, heart disease, acquired immune
17 deficiency syndrome, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia,
18 influenza and chronic lung disease combined; and

19 WHEREAS, a protocol for the entire state to follow and
20 adhere to would greatly benefit school officials, students,
21 families and communities in responding to suicide attempts and
22 completions within schools and communities; and

23 WHEREAS, the issue of youth suicide is one that affects
24 family, friends, communities and the state as a whole; and

25 WHEREAS, because the future of New Mexico relies on the

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1 futures of young people who one day will be the business and
2 community leaders, governors, doctors, teachers, attorneys,
3 scientists and parents, no child or young adult should feel
4 that the world would be better without him or her; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexicans owe it to the future to employ
6 everyone's effort in addressing this important issue;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department, the
9 commission on higher education, the department of health and
10 representatives of the institutions listed in Article 12,
11 Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico collaborate to
12 address the issue of youth suicide by developing and providing
13 training programs for teachers and students and developing a
14 suicide prevention and response protocol and establishing
15 suicide prevention and response programs in all public schools
16 and universities in New Mexico; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public
18 education, the director of the commission on higher education
19 and the secretary of health take the lead to establish a
20 protocol to be used in schools to provide suicide prevention
21 and response training and report to an appropriate interim
22 committee of the legislature on their progress no later than
23 November 2005; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the director

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1 of the commission on higher education, the secretary of health
2 and the presidents and boards of regents or governing boards of
3 the institutions listed in Article 12, Section 11 of the
4 constitution of New Mexico.

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