

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 26

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006**

INTRODUCED BY

James G. Taylor

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF A  
METHAMPHETAMINE PROSECUTION UNIT IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT THAT WILL SERVE AS A MODEL FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND  
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN NEW MEXICO'S RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT  
ARE STRUGGLING TO FIGHT METHAMPHETAMINE-RELATED CRIMES AND  
OFFENDERS.

WHEREAS, methamphetamine is rapidly becoming the local  
drug of choice in New Mexico's communities and is having an  
overwhelming impact on local law enforcement and the criminal  
justice system; and

WHEREAS, methamphetamine is a criminal-lifestyle drug and  
fuels a broad range of felony criminal activity, including  
automobile theft, forgery, credit-card fraud, identity theft,  
mail theft, burglary and shoplifting; and

.161686.1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, local gangs are becoming involved in the  
2 distribution of methamphetamine, and methamphetamine offenders  
3 are becoming the most prolific repeat offenders in the criminal  
4 justice system; and

5           WHEREAS, to combat the growing number of methamphetamine  
6 rings and repeat offenders, law enforcement agencies and  
7 district attorneys in communities across New Mexico need to  
8 develop effective ways of sharing information and prioritizing  
9 prosecution efforts; and

10           WHEREAS, in 2005, the second judicial district attorney,  
11 realizing the need for improved communication and information  
12 sharing between law enforcement agencies and district  
13 attorneys, began holding regular meetings with local law  
14 enforcement agencies in Bernalillo, Valencia, Sandoval and  
15 Torrance counties to target the methamphetamine epidemic; and

16           WHEREAS, the second judicial district attorney also  
17 initiated communication with federal law enforcement agencies,  
18 including the United States postal inspection service and the  
19 secret service, on the methamphetamine problem; and

20           WHEREAS, based on input from law enforcement agencies, the  
21 second judicial district attorney developed the ability to  
22 focus on those repeat offenders linked to methamphetamine-  
23 related crimes who are causing the most damage to the community  
24 and who are worthy of higher priority prosecution efforts; and

25           WHEREAS, in order to effectively handle the growing

.161686.1

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 caseload of methamphetamine offenders, the second judicial  
2 district attorney seeks to establish a methamphetamine  
3 prosecution unit that works with law enforcement in identifying  
4 methamphetamine repeat offenders and screening, expediting and  
5 prosecuting methamphetamine-related cases; and

6 WHEREAS, the second judicial district attorney has  
7 requested funding from the New Mexico legislature in 2006 for  
8 the additional attorneys, paralegals and secretaries needed to  
9 maximize the prosecution efforts of its methamphetamine  
10 prosecution unit; and

11 WHEREAS, the second judicial district attorney's  
12 methamphetamine prosecution unit and its innovative methods of  
13 networking with law enforcement agencies can serve as a model  
14 for rural communities in New Mexico that are struggling to  
15 fight methamphetamine-related crimes and offenders; and

16 WHEREAS, by collaborating with district attorneys in rural  
17 areas of New Mexico, the second judicial district attorney can  
18 serve as a catalyst for improved cooperation between law  
19 enforcement agencies and district attorneys that can result in  
20 reducing the harmful impacts of methamphetamine on New Mexico's  
21 communities;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature support the creation of a  
24 methamphetamine prosecution unit in the second judicial  
25 district that will serve as a model for district attorneys and

.161686.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 law enforcement agencies in rural areas that are struggling to  
2 fight methamphetamine-related crimes and offenders; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the second judicial district  
4 attorney be requested to collaborate with district attorneys in  
5 New Mexico's rural communities in an effort to help those areas  
6 develop effective strategies for facilitating communication  
7 with law enforcement agencies and managing their prosecution  
8 efforts against methamphetamine offenders; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the second judicial district  
10 attorney present a report on the development and status of the  
11 methamphetamine prosecution unit and the progress in  
12 collaborating with New Mexico's rural communities to the  
13 interim legislative courts, corrections and justice committee  
14 by November 1, 2006; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the second judicial district attorney and the  
17 co-chairs of the interim legislative courts, corrections and  
18 justice committee.