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SENATE MEMORIAL 27

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

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Lee Rawson

A MEMORIAL

COMMENDING THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE
COMMUNITY MARRIAGE POLICY PROGRAM AND ENCOURAGING EACH NEW
MEXICO CITY TO FOLLOW ITS EXAMPLE.

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2006, the city of Las Cruces
became the two hundredth American city to sign the community
marriage policy; and

WHEREAS, Mike and Harriet McManus created the community
marriage policy program as part of a collaborative program with
the judiciary, clergy and church congregations to radically
reduce divorce rates among married couples; and

WHEREAS, in the first one hundred fourteen communities in
which the policy was adopted, the divorce rate declined by
seventeen and one-half percent over seven years compared with
similar cities; and

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1 WHEREAS, the success of the community marriage policy
2 program is attributed to six key reforms implemented by the
3 participating parties:

4 A. avoiding a bad marriage before the marriage
5 begins by requiring four to six months of preparation,
6 including taking a premarital inventory and being trained in
7 conflict resolution skills;

8 B. providing "marriage insurance" to the engaged
9 couple by having the couple meet with a trained mentor couple
10 to discuss the results of the premarital inventory;

11 C. strengthening existing marriages by organizing
12 an annual retreat;

13 D. training couples whose marriages are failing by
14 pairing them with mentors who survived a similar crisis;

15 E. pairing the spouse who wishes to reconcile with
16 a friend of the same gender in a workbook course for one hour
17 per week for twelve weeks; and

18 F. creating stepfamily support groups;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that the city of Las Cruces be commended for
21 becoming the two hundredth city to participate in the community
22 marriage policy program and that each New Mexico city be
23 encouraged to follow the example of the city of Las Cruces; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the mayor of Las Cruces and to the New Mexico

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municipal league.