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SENATE MEMORIAL 39

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

INTRODUCED BY

H. Diane Snyder

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND STATE AGENCIES TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CONVERTING THE STATE STATUTES, RULES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS INTO GENDER-NEUTRAL LANGUAGE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has been a leader among the states in promoting gender equality; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has previously adopted legislation regarding the use of gender-specific language in the construction of statutes under Section 12-2A-5 NMSA 1978; and

WHEREAS, this legislation did not provide explicit guidance for the drafting of future legislation, but since May 2002, there has been an increase in the use of gender-neutral language; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico supreme court has recently

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1 modified its rules to provide more explicit guidance in the use
2 of gender-neutral language, and the state bar board of bar
3 commissioners, at the urging of its committee on women and the
4 legal profession, unanimously supports changes in existing
5 statutory language to promote gender equality; and

6 WHEREAS, other states have empowered their legislative
7 council service or equivalent agency to act as a revisor of
8 statutes by reviewing statutes and replacing gender-specific
9 language where reasonable and possible;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
12 requested to:

13 A. appoint a code revision committee to determine
14 the scope and the level of effort needed to develop procedures
15 for revising the statutes using gender-neutral language; and

16 B. work with the committee on women and the legal
17 profession of the New Mexico state bar to develop legislation
18 that will clearly guide the drafting of gender-neutral
19 legislation in the future; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council, the office
22 of the governor and the state executive and judicial branch
23 agencies.