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HOUSE MEMORIAL 8

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Danice Picraux

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 25, 2011 AS "TITLE 9'S THIRTY-NINTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, girls who participate in sports are more likely to graduate from high school and college and have better grades than girls who do not play sports; and

WHEREAS, medical research demonstrates that girls who begin sports young in life are more likely to continue being active as they get older; and

WHEREAS, if a girl has not participated in sports by the time she is ten years old, there is only a ten percent chance she will participate in sports when she is twenty-five years old; and

WHEREAS, the women's sports foundation reports that female high school athletes are more likely to delay sexual activity

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1 and thus have lower odds of becoming pregnant as teenagers than
2 their non-athletic peers; and

3 WHEREAS, the *Journal of Drug Education* and other research
4 publications show that female student athletes are less likely
5 to use drugs or to smoke than female non-athletes; and

6 WHEREAS, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*
7 reports that female athletes are less likely to have long-term
8 health problems such as obesity; breast cancer, the most common
9 form of cancer among women; and cardiovascular disease, the
10 leading cause of death among American women; and

11 WHEREAS, the *Journal of Psychological Reports* published
12 the results of a study showing that participation in sports
13 help girls stay psychologically healthy, particularly during
14 adolescence when girls become psychologically vulnerable; and

15 WHEREAS, the *Journal of Research on Adolescence* reports
16 that girls are twice as likely as boys to drop out of sports;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the *Seton Hall Journal of Sport Law* reports that
19 girls drop out of sports at younger ages than boys; and

20 WHEREAS, the same research reports that, by elementary
21 school, girls are less physically active than boys; and

22 WHEREAS, Title 9 is a federal law that prohibits sex
23 discrimination in schools and promotes increased sports
24 opportunities for girls in schools; and

25 WHEREAS, Title 9 has demonstrated that the more

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1 opportunities girl students have to be active, the more active
2 they are; and

3 WHEREAS, according to a February 2010 report in *The New*
4 *York Times*, since Title 9's passage in 1972, girls and women
5 have been participating in sports in record numbers at all
6 levels, including youth sports, college sports and professional
7 sports; and

8 WHEREAS, the same report attributes to Title 9 a twenty
9 percent increase in women's education and a forty percent
10 increase in employment for twenty-five-year-old to thirty-four-
11 year-old women; and

12 WHEREAS, compliance with Title 9 benefits New Mexico
13 schools financially, as federal general education funding is
14 contingent on compliance and requires districts and the public
15 education department to have Title 9 coordinators; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2010, the New Mexico legislature passed the
17 School Athletics Equity Act, which provides transparency in
18 reporting the athletic opportunities that schools provide to
19 girl students pursuant to Title 9; and

20 WHEREAS, the School Athletics Equity Act helps identify
21 schools that need assistance in providing more sports
22 opportunities to girl students before schools are required to
23 spend thousands of dollars and school personnel time in
24 lawsuits;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

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1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 25,
2 2011 be proclaimed "Title 9's Thirty-Ninth Birthday Celebration
3 Day" in the house of representatives and thus highlight the
4 successes that the law has brought to New Mexico in improved
5 health benefits for girl students as well as health care cost
6 savings for New Mexico; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the educators who are working
8 diligently to provide athletic opportunities to female students
9 in New Mexico be congratulated; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the governor and to the secretary of public
12 education.