

HOUSE MEMORIAL 62

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THAT FATHERS MATTER TO KIDS, KIDS MATTER TO FATHERS AND FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER OFF WHEN FATHERS AND CHILDREN ARE POSITIVELY ENGAGED IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES;
DECLARING AUGUST 10, 2012 "NEW MEXICO FATHERS AND FAMILIES DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2010, over two hundred individuals, including state officials, elected representatives, program service providers, policymakers, fathers, grandfathers, children and other family members from across New Mexico, attended the daylong New Mexico fatherhood forum hosted at the university of New Mexico-Valencia campus in Los Lunas, one of a series of fatherhood forums sponsored by the white house office of faith-based and neighborhood partnerships and the New Mexico office of rural development of the United States department of

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1 agriculture and organized collaboratively by the New Mexico
2 alliance for fathers and families; and

3 WHEREAS, that forum was hosted as a response to President
4 Obama's call for a national conversation on fatherhood and
5 personal responsibility, which gave voice for a statewide and
6 national movement calling for policies and programs to support
7 positive father engagement; acknowledging that responsible,
8 loving father engagement positively affects families and
9 communities; and acknowledging that the absence of fathers from
10 families has a negative impact with social costs measurable by
11 higher rates of incarceration, drug and alcohol abuse and
12 addiction, teen pregnancy, student dropouts, child abuse and
13 violence; and

14 WHEREAS, "our state is at or near the bottom of virtually
15 every national indicator of the well-being of children, youth
16 and families, and we consider that standing unacceptable"; and
17 we are challenged with the realization of a shared, common
18 determination in a New Mexico that still has much to honor and
19 celebrate among our many enduring native traditional cultures
20 rooted in values of respect for family that embrace the unique
21 diversity of New Mexicans and encourage positive fatherly
22 relationships without demeaning the role of mothers; and

23 WHEREAS, the alliance for fathers and families produced a
24 report delivered to the white house that addressed key policy
25 issues focused on education and early childhood, health and

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1 human services, judicial systems and work force and economic
2 development and that may serve as a blueprint for action in New
3 Mexico for years to come; and

4 WHEREAS, the driving force behind the first New Mexico
5 fatherhood forum was the newly formed New Mexico alliance for
6 fathers and families, composed of more than two dozen social
7 nonprofit organizations, state agencies, community and faith-
8 based organizations and social service agencies, along with
9 support from the office of the lieutenant governor and the New
10 Mexico congressional delegation, which included staff support
11 from both of New Mexico's senators, and which shall be the
12 organizer of subsequent fatherhood forums in New Mexico;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
14 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico alliance for fathers and
15 families be recognized as a statewide coalition of
16 organizations and individuals dedicated to creating a culture
17 of positive father engagement by advocating for needed policy
18 changes, promoting effective programs and attracting new
19 resources to New Mexico; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that August 10, 2012, the date of
21 second New Mexico fatherhood forum, be declared "New Mexico
22 Fathers and Families Day" in the senate; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the offices of the governor and lieutenant
25 governor, the New Mexico congressional delegation, the New

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1 Mexico children's cabinet and the white house office of faith-
2 based and neighborhood partnerships.

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