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SENATE MEMORIAL 39

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

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane M. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ENGAGE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, during the first session of the fiftieth legislature, the legislature passed, and Governor Susana Martinez subsequently signed into law, Senate Bill 78, which requires each local school board to implement a bullying prevention program by August 2012; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2007 New Mexico youth risk and resiliency survey, nine percent of New Mexico high school students reported skipping school within the past thirty days because they felt unsafe at school or while traveling to or from school; and

WHEREAS, American medical association research findings

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1 indicate that bullying has a negative social and public health  
2 impact on children and youths; and

3 WHEREAS, a bully may exhibit anti-social or delinquent  
4 behaviors, such as vandalism, shoplifting, truancy and frequent  
5 drug use; and

6 WHEREAS, bullies may continue these anti-social or  
7 delinquent behaviors into young adulthood; and

8 WHEREAS, a bully is more apt to drink liquor, smoke  
9 tobacco and perform poorly in school; and

10 WHEREAS, one in four boys who has been a bully has a  
11 criminal record by age thirty; and

12 WHEREAS, a bullied person may experience short-term  
13 problems, such as depression and thoughts of suicide, anxiety,  
14 loneliness and difficulties with school work, and long-term  
15 problems, including low self-esteem and depression; and

16 WHEREAS, in a United States department of education study,  
17 younger students were found to be more likely than older  
18 students to report being bullied; and

19 WHEREAS, in a United States department of education study,  
20 fourteen percent of students reported being victims of  
21 bullying; and

22 WHEREAS, in a United States department of education study,  
23 of those students who reported lower grades, the victims of  
24 bullying were more likely to report receiving lower grades than  
25 their non-bullied counterparts; and

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1           WHEREAS, victims of and witnesses to bullying often do not  
2 inform adults because of intimidation by the bullies; and

3           WHEREAS, bullying behavior is identified as a problem that  
4 creates a climate of fear and intimidation that affects  
5 children and youths in multiple environments within the  
6 community, including youth clubs, sports and public and private  
7 educational settings; and

8           WHEREAS, bullying remains a public problem in New Mexico  
9 requiring a public response and engagement by a variety of  
10 stakeholders, including state and school officials, parents,  
11 students and community members;

12           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
13 OF NEW MEXICO that all school districts in New Mexico be  
14 encouraged to actively engage parents and community members in  
15 the development and evaluation of bullying prevention programs;  
16 and

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that school districts make a  
18 concerted effort to engage parents of students that have been  
19 bullied, as well as community members and organizations with  
20 experience, expertise or knowledge in working with and serving  
21 bullied students; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the public education department for circulation  
24 to the superintendent of each public school district in New  
25 Mexico.

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