

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY AND EVALUATE
POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE THE RATES OF SUICIDE BY
FIREARMS AND GUN VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, the frequency of firearms attacks and gun
violence has continued to increase since the December 2012
massacre at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown,
Connecticut, where twenty first-grade students and six adults
were gunned down; and

WHEREAS, the gun violence archive, a nonprofit
corporation formed to provide access to accurate information
about gun-related violence in the United States, reports that
in 2017, there were sixty-one thousand three hundred
forty-nine gun-related incidents and fifteen thousand five
hundred fifty-two deaths; and

WHEREAS, of the total number of gun-related deaths or
injuries, seven hundred thirty-two were children aged eleven
and younger and three thousand two hundred thirty-two deaths
or injuries involved teens aged twelve to seventeen; and

WHEREAS, the most recent mass murder in New Mexico was
on June 11, 2016 in Roswell, New Mexico, where one adult and
four children aged three, seven, eleven and fourteen died as
a result of gun violence; and

1 WHEREAS, the most recent school shooting on
2 December 7, 2017 in Aztec, New Mexico, resulted in the death
3 of two students and the suicide of the shooter; and

4 WHEREAS, there is a national trend of increased use of
5 guns in student suicides, which is greater than that of
6 student homicides in schools; and

7 WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2015, the suicide rate among
8 New Mexico youth aged ten to twenty-four was consistently at
9 least sixty percent higher than that of the United States,
10 according to department of health statistics;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department and
13 the legislative education study committee be requested to
14 study and evaluate potential solutions to decrease the rates
15 of suicide by firearms and gun violence in schools; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
17 department and the legislative education study committee be
18 requested to provide a report of their findings and
19 conclusions to the legislative education study committee by
20 October 1, 2018; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the chair
23 of the legislative education study committee. _____