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SENATE MEMORIAL 66

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES, NEW MEXICO AND NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES TO TAKE PROACTIVE STEPS TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND ALL VICTIMS OF CRIME AND TO HOLD THE PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE.

WHEREAS, sexual violence against children, women and other people who are victims of crime is horrendous and all too common in the United States; and

WHEREAS, every minute, an American is sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, on average, there are almost four hundred fifty thousand victims, age twelve or older, of sexual violence such as rape, assault or abuse each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, children are at the highest risk of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, child sexual abuse is such a widespread problem

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1 that every nine minutes, child protective services finds enough
2 evidence to substantiate a claim of child sexual abuse,
3 although it is known that child sexual abuse occurs much more
4 frequently; and

5 WHEREAS, of all victims under the age of eighteen, two out
6 of three are between the ages of twelve and seventeen; and

7 WHEREAS, due to the lack of reports and surveillance, the
8 exact number of people who are victims of crime and sexual
9 abuse or assault is unknown, but is estimated to impact the
10 large majority of the public; and

11 WHEREAS, many of these crimes go uninvestigated, and when
12 they are investigated, they are often referred to federal
13 courts for prosecution, where conviction rates are extremely
14 low; and

15 WHEREAS, the trauma from abuse lives on in the victims of
16 these terrible crimes; and

17 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences and violence have
18 been shown to have long-lasting effects in many aspects of a
19 person's life; and

20 WHEREAS, the cost of those effects is not only felt by the
21 victims but also by their families and entire communities; and

22 WHEREAS, there are also economic costs that can be
23 attributed to these crimes; and

24 WHEREAS, these crimes and the lack of accountability for
25 them contribute to a public health and safety epidemic; and

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1 WHEREAS, as these crimes persist, the victims are at
2 increased risk of poor health outcomes, early death and
3 suicide; and

4 WHEREAS, there are few resources dedicated for victims of
5 sexual violence and other related crimes; and

6 WHEREAS, the frequency of these crimes and the low
7 conviction rates create ongoing trauma for the victims, who
8 often continue to live in the same communities as the
9 perpetrators; and

10 WHEREAS, despite the work of some organizations and
11 professionals, much work remains to be done to address the
12 epidemic of sexual violence and the resulting trauma and life
13 and health outcomes; and

14 WHEREAS, these crimes often go unreported or are reported
15 years after the crime occurred; and

16 WHEREAS, even when these crimes are reported, the statutes
17 of limitations are unjust and unfavorable to the victims; and

18 WHEREAS, there is a nationwide movement to remove or
19 adjust statutes of limitations for sexual violence cases; and

20 WHEREAS, these problems are prevalent among all
21 jurisdictions and the general population;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the United States, New Mexico and Native
24 American tribes be requested to collaboratively take proactive
25 steps to protect children, women and other members of the

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1 public who are victims of violent crime and to hold the
2 perpetrators accountable; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
5 governor and New Mexico's twenty-three Indian nations, tribes
6 and pueblos.

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