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SENATE MEMORIAL 18

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022**

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto

A MEMORIAL

HONORING THE FAMILIES OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND RELATIVES AND EXPRESSING UNWAVERING SUPPORT TO CONTINUE TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND RELATIVES.

WHEREAS, the welfare of New Mexican indigenous women, children and relatives is connected to the broader well-being, health and safety of all New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, the missing and murdered indigenous women and relatives crisis in New Mexico and beyond is inextricably rooted in the larger, complex history of state-sanctioned colonial violence against indigenous people; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico missing persons information clearinghouse data research analysis conducted in New Mexico between 2014 and 2019 reported nine hundred eighty-six missing

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1 person cases, ninety-seven percent of which remained unsolved  
2 and sixteen percent of which involve indigenous persons; and

3 WHEREAS, the 2020 New Mexico missing and murdered  
4 indigenous women and relatives task force reported that  
5 Albuquerque and Gallup, New Mexico, are among the top ten  
6 cities in the United States for the highest number of missing  
7 and murdered indigenous women and girls; and

8 WHEREAS, Native American women in New Mexico have the  
9 highest rate of homicide victims among all racial and ethnic  
10 groups; and

11 WHEREAS, tribal nations across the United States face  
12 continued external threats that jeopardize tribal sovereignty  
13 and the well-being and safety of indigenous women, children and  
14 relatives; and

15 WHEREAS, it is critical that data be accurately reported  
16 and captured and that more research be done to fully understand  
17 the scope of the missing and murdered indigenous women and  
18 relatives crisis to formulate appropriate recommendations for  
19 justice; and

20 WHEREAS, in response to this ongoing crisis, Governor  
21 Michelle Lujan Grisham signed executive order 2021-013  
22 establishing the New Mexico missing and murdered indigenous  
23 women and relatives task force; and

24 WHEREAS, the task force was created to develop a state  
25 response plan addressing systemic changes that support

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1 prevention, reporting and investigation of incidents of missing  
2 and murdered indigenous women and relatives; and

3 WHEREAS, the task force meets monthly with goals of  
4 developing a state response plan and the continued collection  
5 of data from law enforcement agencies for 2020 missing persons  
6 data, homicide data and accidental deaths; and

7 WHEREAS, in December 2021, the Indian affairs department  
8 and the Bernalillo county district attorney's office entered  
9 into a memorandum of understanding to form a specialized  
10 missing and murdered indigenous women and relatives task force  
11 with a special subunit to help solve cases of missing and  
12 murdered indigenous women and relatives;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
14 OF NEW MEXICO that the families of missing and murdered  
15 indigenous women and relatives be honored; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that support continue to be given  
17 to address violence against missing and murdered indigenous  
18 women and relatives; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the secretary of Indian affairs, the twenty-  
21 three federally recognized Native American tribes of New  
22 Mexico, the governor and the chair of the New Mexico missing  
23 and murdered indigenous women and relatives task force.