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1 improved attendance and reduced student violence and
2 disruptive behavior as well as a greater sense of ownership
3 and pride in a school by its students; and

4 WHEREAS, research indicates a general sense of isolation
5 and alienation among children during the middle school years
6 when children are maturing into young adults; and

7 WHEREAS, educators across the country are countering
8 student anonymity with smaller public schools that have been
9 restructured into smaller learning communities that focus on
10 more personalized instruction; and

11 WHEREAS, research indicates that middle school and
12 junior high students need to continue the close student-
13 teacher relationships developed in elementary schools,
14 relationships that are less likely to develop when students
15 have multiple classrooms and teachers;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
18 education and local school boards study alternative methods
19 of restructuring public schools and redesigning class
20 schedules of elementary, middle and junior high and high
21 schools in order to facilitate a safer and more inviting
22 environment that is conducive to learning; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of
24 public education report its findings to the legislative
25 education study committee no later than November 1, 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
distributed to the superintendent of public instruction, the

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1 executive director of the New Mexico school boards
2 association and the director of the legislative education
3 study committee for appropriate distribution.

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