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SENATE MEMORIAL 22

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Cisco McSorley

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT A NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF PEACE.

WHEREAS, the framers of the United States constitution declared that the achievement of peace is recognized as one of the highest duties of the new organization of free and independent states; and

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 1 of the constitution of New Mexico declares the United States constitution to be the supreme law of the land; and

WHEREAS, finding peaceful solutions to problems and conflicts is, therefore, a fundamental American value, and peace is an organizing principle by which to coordinate services to every level of society; and

WHEREAS, peace promotes justice and democratic principles

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1 to expand human rights and promotes the development of human
2 potential; and

3 WHEREAS, a department of peace would provide a vehicle to:

4 A. create a climate of respect, cooperation, safety
5 and nonviolence for our citizens, our children and future
6 generations;

7 B. ensure the betterment of humanity by instilling
8 hope, inner peace and compassion and by making the citizens and
9 government officials of New Mexico aware of the high benefits
10 of peacemaking;

11 C. encourage the use of dialogue, diplomacy,
12 negotiation and goodwill at all levels of public life and
13 discourse;

14 D. teach mediation and alternative dispute
15 resolution techniques throughout the state in public schools
16 and state government, including provision of written and
17 electronic materials pertaining to mediation, negotiation,
18 diplomacy and peacemaking and the provision of resources to
19 those who cannot afford professional legal services; and

20 E. study the relationship between the use of
21 negotiation and the lowering of incidents of hostility,
22 criminal behavior, domestic violence, dropout rates, costly
23 litigation and expensive incarceration; and

24 WHEREAS, accumulated injustice and hatred, when
25 persistently ignored, incites those who have been given no

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1 voice and no place at the table to desperate and destructive
2 acts; and

3 WHEREAS, the positive, social and healing force of peace
4 is the only possibility for sustaining life on our planet;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
6 OF NEW MEXICO that a New Mexico department of peace be
7 supported; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the governor.

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