

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
3 STUDY THE STATUTES GOVERNING THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF CHILD
4 ABUSE.

5
6 WHEREAS, child abuse victimizes the most vulnerable,
7 most dependent and most innocent New Mexicans and generates
8 emotional outrage in communities; and

9 WHEREAS, that outrage and a community's desire that
10 justice be served can put pressure on the criminal justice
11 system; and

12 WHEREAS, the more heinous the crime, the more critical
13 it becomes that state law be vigilant in ensuring that the
14 rights of the accused are not sacrificed in the pursuit of
15 justice;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the appropriate interim legislative
18 committee be requested to study the statutes relating to the
19 criminal offense of child abuse to determine whether the
20 statutes are serving the best interests of New Mexico
21 children; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interim committee
23 specifically review the definition of criminal negligence and
24 its applicability in child abuse offenses; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, during its study, the

1 interim committee solicit the professional opinions of
2 prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, victim advocates,
3 family members of victims and any other appropriate parties;
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
7 council for assignment to the appropriate interim legislative
8 committee.

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