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HOUSE MEMORIAL 15

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

INTRODUCED BY  
Jeff Steinborn

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008, "BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS  
YOUTH MENTORING DAY" AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, more boys and girls in New Mexico than ever  
before grow up in circumstances that place them at severe risk  
of dropping out of school, youth crime and violence, drug and  
alcohol abuse and teen pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the big brothers big sisters mission is to bring  
caring adults into the lives of young people in order to  
prevent destructive behavior and instill positive values and  
life skills; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's big brothers big sisters programs  
served over three thousand children in 2007 in counties across  
the entire state and these programs were nationally recognized  
for their Hispanic and Native American mentoring initiatives;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, science-based research has shown that a young  
3 person who is matched with a big brother or big sister  
4 volunteer is:

5 A. forty-six percent less likely to start using  
6 illegal drugs;

7 B. twenty-seven percent less likely to start  
8 drinking;

9 C. fifty-two percent less likely to skip a day of  
10 school;

11 D. thirty-seven percent less likely to skip a  
12 class; and

13 E. less likely to engage in violence; and

14 WHEREAS, the positive impact of big brothers big sisters  
15 has proved that one adult caring for one child is the most  
16 powerful force to keep young people in school, off drugs and  
17 alcohol and out of trouble with the law; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico's big brothers big sisters programs  
19 and its school-based partners have grown twice as fast as the  
20 national average, increasing the number of youth matched with  
21 adults by nearly sixty percent to three thousand one hundred  
22 big-little matches in the past year; and

23 WHEREAS, with waiting lists for all of its programs and a  
24 torrent of requests from unserved counties in New Mexico, the  
25 big brothers big sisters programs in New Mexico are committed

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1 to bringing its life-changing program to all children in the  
2 state, regardless of where they reside;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the invaluable  
5 contributions of big brothers big sisters be recognized and  
6 that Friday, January 25, 2008, be declared "Big Brothers Big  
7 Sisters Youth Mentoring Day" at the house of representatives.