

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 24, 2009 AS "AFTER-SCHOOL FOR ALL DAY"
3 AT THE SENATE.

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5 WHEREAS, studies by law enforcement and nonprofit
6 organizations show that the hours between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00
7 p.m. are the peak hours for children to become victims of
8 violent crimes or to commit crimes themselves; and

9 WHEREAS, these hours are also the peak hours for drug
10 and alcohol use and for automobile accidents involving
11 children; and

12 WHEREAS, research shows that after-school programs can
13 have a positive impact on society by making streets safer and
14 by reducing risk-taking behavior, such as alcohol, tobacco
15 and drug use by teenagers; and

16 WHEREAS, after-school programs lead to improved
17 educational outcomes for children by increasing school
18 attendance, reducing suspensions and improving standardized
19 test scores; and

20 WHEREAS, after-school programs reduce crime, health
21 costs associated with drug and alcohol use, grade repetition
22 and the need for remedial education; and

23 WHEREAS, after-school programs help working families by
24 providing their children with a safe, educationally enriching
25 place to go after school when there is no parent at home; and

1 WHEREAS, school buildings, playgrounds and other school
2 facilities can and should be better utilized before, during
3 and after school hours for structured out-of-school time for
4 children; and

5 WHEREAS, only a small portion of elementary and middle
6 schools in the state currently operate an out-of-school time
7 program; and

8 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, nineteen percent of children in
9 kindergarten through twelfth grade are responsible for taking
10 care of themselves after school hours, and more than
11 thirty-nine percent of those children would be likely to
12 participate in an after-school program if one were available
13 in their community; and

14 WHEREAS, approximately fifty-five percent of New
15 Mexico's children have either a single working parent or two
16 parents who work, making out-of-school time programs a
17 necessity rather than a luxury;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 24, 2009 be proclaimed
20 "After-School for All Day" at the senate, recognizing the
21 efforts and accomplishments of New Mexico after-school
22 providers; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
24 department, in conjunction with the children, youth and
25 families department and the children's cabinet, be requested

1 to continue to pursue efforts to streamline funding and avoid
2 duplication of after-school programs in the state; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the
5 secretary of children, youth and families and the members of
6 the children's cabinet.

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