

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROCLAIMING MARCH 4, 2011 "FOR A CHILD, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
3 LASTS A LIFETIME DAY" IN THE SENATE; RECOGNIZING A CONNECTION
4 BETWEEN CHILDREN WHO ARE EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND
5 NEGATIVE EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

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7 WHEREAS, scientific research shows that between ten and
8 twenty percent of children in the United States are exposed
9 to domestic violence annually; and

10 WHEREAS, some research places the number of children
11 exposed to sexual, physical or emotional abuse and neglect at
12 two-thirds of all children in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, child abuse is nearly one thousand five hundred
14 times higher in homes where there is domestic violence, and
15 between thirty to sixty percent of perpetrators of domestic
16 violence also abuse their children; and

17 WHEREAS, children also witness domestic violence. In
18 2008, law enforcement in New Mexico responded to twenty
19 thousand incidents of domestic violence, and nearly four
20 thousand five hundred children were present at the scene when
21 police arrived; and

22 WHEREAS, eighty to ninety percent of children are aware
23 of violence in their homes, even though many parents
24 mistakenly believe that children are not aware and are not
25 affected; and

1 WHEREAS, when children are targets of abuse or witnesses
2 to abuse, they suffer from a range of serious problems
3 throughout their lives, and studies show that these children
4 suffer from a number of social and emotional problems,
5 including aggressive behavior, depression, anxiety, decreased
6 social competence and diminished academic performance; and

7 WHEREAS, children exposed to domestic violence suffer
8 academically, having significantly lower reading and math
9 test scores than their peers, and they have increased overall
10 misbehavior in the classroom; and

11 WHEREAS, many parents and school officials agree that
12 troubled children negatively affect learning in the
13 classroom; and

14 WHEREAS, unless domestic violence is addressed and
15 services are maintained for parents and their children,
16 efforts to improve educational outcomes will be limited; and

17 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, the number of incidents of
18 children exposed to domestic violence is high while positive
19 educational outcomes in school are low; and

20 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature recognizes that this
21 connection must be acknowledged as a critical piece of
22 information when trying to create educational reforms that
23 work for the best interests of the education of the children
24 of New Mexico;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 4, 2011 be proclaimed "For
2 a Child, Domestic Violence Lasts a Lifetime Day" in the
3 senate. _____

SM 59
Page 3

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