

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 4

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 DECLARING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 24, 2011 THROUGH JANUARY 30, 2011
12 AS "NEW MEXICO MENTORSHIP WEEK" IN THE NEW MEXICO SENATE.

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14 WHEREAS, sustained relationships with caring adults are
15 among the most important success factors in a child's life; and

16 WHEREAS, according to Public/Private Ventures, an
17 independent, national research organization, children matched
18 with big brothers big sisters are forty-six percent less likely
19 to start using illegal drugs, twenty-seven percent less likely
20 to start using alcohol, fifty-two percent less likely to skip a
21 day of school and thirty-three percent less likely to hit
22 someone or get in a fight and are more trusting of parents or
23 guardians and less likely to lie to them; and

24 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over three thousand two
25 hundred children were matched with caring adult mentors in 2009

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1 throughout New Mexico, and thousands more are in need of
2 services each year; and

3 WHEREAS, according to the Annie E. Casey foundation,
4 society realizes ten dollars (\$10.00) in benefits for every one
5 dollar (\$1.00) invested in the mentoring of one youth; and

6 WHEREAS, many mentoring programs exist in New Mexico,
7 including several regional chapters of big brothers big
8 sisters; numerous programs sponsored by the university of New
9 Mexico mentoring institute; the New Mexico youth challenge
10 academy, sponsored by the New Mexico army national guard; the
11 national Indian youth leadership program; and more; and

12 WHEREAS, youth and adult volunteers need greater access to
13 information about these programs so that they can be better
14 utilized by youth and so that more adults will volunteer as
15 mentors; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico first hosted town hall sessions during
17 May and June of 2010 titled *Raising the Aspirations of New*
18 *Mexico Youth*, at which three hundred participants from all four
19 regions of the state recognized the importance of adult role
20 models and mentors for youth; and

21 WHEREAS, the findings of these town hall sessions support
22 the need to create comprehensive mentoring programs within
23 regions, communities and schools so that each student's unique
24 needs can be addressed; and

25 WHEREAS, January is national mentoring month, during which

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1 all public officials, business and community leaders, educators
2 and Americans across the country are encouraged to recognize
3 the importance of mentoring; and

4 WHEREAS, declaring the week of January 24, 2011 through
5 January 30, 2011 as "New Mexico Mentorship Week" in the New
6 Mexico senate provides an opportunity to focus on and pursue
7 the proposed actions and priorities identified in the
8 aforementioned New Mexico first town hall sessions;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the week of January 24, 2011 through January
11 30, 2011 be declared "New Mexico Mentorship Week" in the New
12 Mexico senate; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the governor and to all members of the New
15 Mexico senate.