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A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ENGAGE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, during the first session of the fiftieth legislature, the legislature passed, and Governor Susana Martinez subsequently signed into law, Senate Bill 78, which requires each local school board to implement a bullying prevention program by August 2012; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2007 New Mexico youth risk and resiliency survey, nine percent of New Mexico high school students reported skipping school within the past thirty days because they felt unsafe at school or while traveling to or from school; and

WHEREAS, American medical association research findings indicate that bullying has a negative social and public health impact on children and youths; and

WHEREAS, a bully may exhibit anti-social or delinquent behaviors, such as vandalism, shoplifting, truancy and frequent drug use; and

WHEREAS, bullies may continue these anti-social or delinquent behaviors into young adulthood; and

WHEREAS, a bully is more apt to drink liquor, smoke tobacco and perform poorly in school; and

1 WHEREAS, one in four boys who has been a bully has a
2 criminal record by age thirty; and

3 WHEREAS, a bullied person may experience short-term
4 problems, such as depression and thoughts of suicide,
5 anxiety, loneliness and difficulties with school work, and
6 long-term problems, including low self-esteem and depression;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, in a United States department of education
9 study, younger students were found to be more likely than
10 older students to report being bullied; and

11 WHEREAS, in a United States department of education
12 study, fourteen percent of students reported being victims of
13 bullying; and

14 WHEREAS, in a United States department of education
15 study, of those students who reported lower grades, the
16 victims of bullying were more likely to report receiving
17 lower grades than their non-bullied counterparts; and

18 WHEREAS, victims of and witnesses to bullying often do
19 not inform adults because of intimidation by the bullies; and

20 WHEREAS, bullying behavior is identified as a problem
21 that creates a climate of fear and intimidation that affects
22 children and youths in multiple environments within the
23 community, including youth clubs, sports and public and
24 private educational settings; and

25 WHEREAS, bullying remains a public problem in New Mexico

1 requiring a public response and engagement by a variety of
2 stakeholders, including state and school officials, parents,
3 students and community members;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all school districts in New Mexico
6 be encouraged to actively engage parents and community
7 members in the development and evaluation of bullying
8 prevention programs; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that school districts make a
10 concerted effort to engage parents of students that have been
11 bullied, as well as community members and organizations with
12 experience, expertise or knowledge in working with and
13 serving bullied students; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the public education department for circulation
16 to the superintendent of each public school district in New
17 Mexico.

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