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SENATE MEMORIAL 38

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

John Pinto

A MEMORIAL

SUPPORTING UNITED STATES CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND'S CALL FOR A NATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS.

WHEREAS, the alarming number of indigenous women and girls who disappear or are murdered each year is a national disgrace; and

WHEREAS, four out of five Native American women are affected by violence today; and

WHEREAS, the United States department of justice found that Native American women face murder rates that are more than ten times the national average; and

WHEREAS, out of seventy-one cities in the country, the city of Albuquerque has one of the highest numbers of urban Native American women and girls who have been reported missing

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1 or murdered, according to a recently published report by the
2 urban Indian health institute; and

3 WHEREAS, in urban New Mexico, which includes Albuquerque,
4 Farmington, Gallup and Santa Fe, seventy-eight women and girls
5 have been reported missing or murdered since 1956, making New
6 Mexico the state with the highest instance of violence in the
7 urban demographic; and

8 WHEREAS, the urban Indian health institute reported that
9 the challenges and barriers in accessing data on this issue
10 from law enforcement severely impede the ability of
11 communities, tribal nations and policymakers to make informed
12 decisions on how best to address the violence; and

13 WHEREAS, no federal agency has comprehensive data on how
14 many indigenous women and girls are murdered or missing; and

15 WHEREAS, the issue of missing and murdered indigenous
16 women and girls is a priority of Congresswoman Deb Haaland, a
17 Pueblo of Laguna tribal member, who represents New Mexico's
18 first congressional district in the United States house of
19 representatives; and

20 WHEREAS, Congresswoman Haaland is one of two of the first
21 Native American women to be elected to congress; and

22 WHEREAS, Congresswoman Haaland describes the number of
23 missing and murdered indigenous women as an epidemic and has
24 stated that she plans to seek justice for these women at the
25 national level; and

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