1	HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 50
2	42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1996
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	SHERYL M WILLIAMS
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)	A JOINT MEMORIAL
L	REQUESTING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA TASK FORCE TO
;	CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERSONNEL CATEGORY OF SCHOOL
5	COUNSELORS.
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	WHEREAS, elementary, middle, junior and high school
5	children are being subjected to unprecedented social stresses,
	including fragmentation of families, drug and alcohol abuse,
	child abuse, poverty and violence; and
	WHEREAS, an increasing number of these children are
	exhibiting symptoms of distress such as emotional disorders,
	academic underachievement, disruptive behavior, juvenile
	delinquency and withdrawal; and
	WHEREAS, counseling provided within public schools can
	reduce drug abuse, dropout rates, unemployment and
	incarceration; and
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WHEREAS, the state can help reduce academic, social and emotional problems of students by enhancing the availability and quality of public school counseling programs; and

WHEREAS, successful students contribute significantly more to the tax base; and

WHEREAS, school dropouts, gang members, pregnant teens and substance abusing youth are burdens on the taxpayer and contribute to rising crime; and

WHEREAS, school counselors contribute positively to students' progress and development, the school environment, student self-discipline, school attendance and academic achievement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public school funding formula task force be requested to study the establishment of a personnel category of school counselors in the public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that school counseling programs be studied independently at the elementary, middle, junior and high school levels, including national pupil-counselor ratios, position statements, student expectations and pay scales; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public school funding formula task force make recommendations on school counseling programs to the legislative education study committee by December 1, 1996; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1	transmitted to the members of the public school funding formula					
2	task force and the legislative education study committee.					
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		10	Mr. Speaker:
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		14	Your <b>RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE,</b> to
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	8	February 15, 1996
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	10	Mr. President:
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