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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 6

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Dianne Hamilton

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING STATEWIDE ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAMS
IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico faces a challenge in its public schools with the problem of some students engaging in bullying behavior in written, verbal or physical actions toward other students, which when left uncorrected diminishes the sense of self-worth of the student being harassed, intimidated or physically threatened or assaulted; and

WHEREAS, research shows that bullying behavior contributes to a culture of fear in the school where the behavior occurs, affects the achievement of students and increases absenteeism, which can lead to students ultimately dropping out of school; and

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1 WHEREAS, guidelines prohibiting bullying, harassment or
2 intimidation by any student need to be developed for school
3 personnel in dealing with this problem; and

4 WHEREAS, technical assistance to teachers and other
5 school personnel is necessary to provide effective
6 intervention strategies that will reduce and, if possible,
7 eliminate bullying behavior and provide a safe learning
8 environment for all students; and

9 WHEREAS, school-wide programs that provide methods for
10 teachers to intervene and prevent bullying and violent acts
11 among students and teach students respect and tolerance toward
12 each other will enhance positive relationships among students
13 and school personnel;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state board of education be
16 requested to study the feasibility of implementing anti-
17 bullying policies and programs in the public schools and
18 developing school-wide programs that intervene and prevent
19 incidents of bullying, harassment and intimidation among
20 students; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board of education
22 review its disciplinary methods for resolving bullying
23 behavior so that suspension is established as the last resort
24 used in a progressive disciplinary approach; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board of education

1 report its findings and recommendations to the legislative
2 education study committee by October 1, 2002; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction and
5 the director of the legislative education study committee for
6 appropriate distribution.

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