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SENATE MEMORIAL 71

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF
THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO CONSIDER
ALTERNATIVES TO THE DETAINMENT OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES SEEKING
ASYLUM IN THIS COUNTRY.

WHEREAS, thousands of Central American mothers and
children are fleeing persecution in the form of gang and cartel
violence, extortion, human trafficking and domestic violence at
a level that public authorities in their home countries are
powerless to prevent or remedy; and

WHEREAS, these women and children are seeking safety in
the United States and, for that reason, they apply for asylum
from persecution upon arrival at the United States and Mexico
border crossings; and

WHEREAS, the right to seek asylum is established in the

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1 federal Immigration and Nationality Act, reflecting United
2 States treaty obligations under the 1967 protocol relating to
3 the status of refugees; and

4 WHEREAS, many of these women and children have been
5 detained in a federal immigration detention facility in
6 Artesia; and

7 WHEREAS, since July 2014, of the more than one thousand
8 asylum-seeking Central American mothers and children detained
9 in that facility, almost every asylum claim that has been
10 considered on the merits resulted in the grant of asylum by the
11 immigration judge; and

12 WHEREAS, the federal government has legitimate concerns
13 for national security and the orderly control of immigration
14 affairs; and

15 WHEREAS, the detention of thousands of asylum-seeking
16 women and children does not resolve those concerns, especially
17 when there are relatives, faith congregations and other
18 community organizations willing to support them in the pursuit
19 of their asylum claims;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
21 OF NEW MEXICO that the president of the United States and
22 members of the New Mexico congressional delegation be
23 respectfully requested to consider alternatives to the
24 detainment of immigrant families seeking asylum in this
25 country; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the president of the United States and members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.