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SENATE MEMORIAL 39

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Jacob R. Candelaria

A MEMORIAL

DENOUNCING FEDERAL EXECUTIVE POLICIES THAT ARE DETRIMENTAL TO
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2017, President Donald Trump
signed two executive orders that will dramatically change
previously close ties between the governments of the United
States and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the president's campaign promise to build a wall
along the two thousand miles of the United States and Mexico
border became reality with an executive order for the immediate
construction of a physical wall on the southern border between
the United States and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the executive order gives the United States
department of homeland security six months to study how to
prevent all unlawful entries into the United States, a goal

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1 many policymakers consider impossible; and

2 WHEREAS, a border wall would directly impact New Mexico's
3 economy and would endanger the New Mexico's port of entry at
4 Santa Teresa; and

5 WHEREAS, the *Los Angeles Times* reports that cost estimates
6 for walling off the entire border run from twelve billion
7 dollars (\$12,000,000,000) to thirty-eight billion dollars
8 (\$38,000,000,000) and would cost millions more to maintain over
9 time; and

10 WHEREAS, Mexican President Enrique Nieto canceled a
11 scheduled trip to Washington to meet with President Trump after
12 the executive order to build the wall was signed; and

13 WHEREAS, immigration is at the forefront of issues between
14 the United States and Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, under the president's plans, immigration
16 officials would have more freedom to deport people they find in
17 the country illegally; and

18 WHEREAS, through his executive orders, the president
19 expanded the list of people considered a priority for removal
20 to those charged with crimes, even if a trial has not yet been
21 held, and those who have improperly received any welfare
22 benefits; and

23 WHEREAS, because of these immigration policies, many
24 people would be unable to win reprieves from deportation even
25 if they had strong family ties in the United States; and

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1 WHEREAS, the president has instructed immigration
2 officials to expand the number and size of detention facilities
3 to hold asylum seekers and people awaiting hearings in
4 immigration court; and

5 WHEREAS, advocates for immigrants are concerned about poor
6 conditions and substandard medical care in detention
7 facilities; and

8 WHEREAS, the president has yet to make policy decisions on
9 a 2012 directive that gives undocumented immigrants brought to
10 the United States as children a chance to work in the United
11 States legally without getting deported; and

12 WHEREAS, there are more than seven hundred forty thousand
13 participants in the deferred action for childhood arrivals
14 program, also known as the dreamers program, who have work
15 permits under the policy; and

16 WHEREAS, changes to the dreamers program will have
17 significant consequences for many New Mexico participants; and

18 WHEREAS, sanctuary cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco,
19 Chicago and Santa Fe are affected by the president's
20 immigration policies; and

21 WHEREAS, the president has ordered federal agencies to
22 withhold federal grants from cities that "willfully refuse to
23 comply" with immigration laws; and

24 WHEREAS, White House officials have not yet explained
25 exactly which categories of federal funds would be targeted,

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1 although most of the funding affected would be funds overseen
2 by the United States department of justice and the United
3 States department of homeland security; and

4 WHEREAS, on a state level, funds could be withheld from
5 grants to local police for purchasing new equipment for
6 training and for reimbursement to local jails for holding
7 prisoners and detainees for the federal bureau of
8 investigation; and

9 WHEREAS, recent policies promoting a border wall between
10 Mexico and the United States and certain aggressive stances on
11 trade and immigration diminish the diversity of people,
12 religions and cultures that make the United States a shining
13 democracy; and

14 WHEREAS, a twenty percent tariff on all Mexican imports
15 would threaten the future of New Mexico's port of entry at
16 Santa Teresa;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
18 OF NEW MEXICO that federal executive policies that are
19 detrimental to relations between the United States and Mexico
20 be denounced; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the diversity of the United
22 States be celebrated instead of feared and denigrated; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the president of the United States, the
25 president pro tempore of the United States senate, the speaker

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1 of the United States house of representatives and members of
2 the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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