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HOUSE MEMORIAL 82

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

INTRODUCED BY

Patricio Ruiloba and G. Andrés Romero

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT AND THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE STATUS OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS IN THEIR DEPARTMENTS.

WHEREAS, large numbers of New Mexico's youth experience early contact with the justice system and are at greater risk for future, more serious contact as adults; and

WHEREAS, this contact may affect and limit opportunities for youth to contribute to society as adults and imposes significant costs and harm to communities; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice programs help youth make better choices, engage in school, graduate and transition into vocational opportunities or higher education and reduce contact with the juvenile and criminal justice systems and help reduce

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1 future costs, reduce harm to individuals and the community and
2 assist with productive youth development; and

3 WHEREAS, restorative justice is a facilitated process that
4 allows everyone involved in a conflict to be heard and take
5 responsibility for any harm caused, that seeks ways to repair
6 harm and make things right as much as possible and that
7 restores relationships and community; and

8 WHEREAS, restorative justice programs seek to attract new
9 resources, including funding and volunteers from the community,
10 professional organizations and faith-based organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, many states, including New Mexico, counties,
12 cities and other jurisdictions, have implemented restorative
13 justice practices in schools, in criminal justice systems in
14 pre- and post-adjudication stages and in neighborhoods; and

15 WHEREAS, those states, counties, cities and other
16 jurisdictions can proudly point to reduced recidivism, greater
17 harmony in neighborhoods and in schools, a sense that the
18 justice system has served victims of crime and other societal
19 benefits;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections
22 department and the children, youth and families department be
23 requested to study and report on the status of restorative
24 justice programs and contracts in their departments; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department and

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1 the children, youth and families department study programs with
2 demonstrated success for possible replication throughout New
3 Mexico to the benefit of all residents; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department and
5 the children, youth and families department report their
6 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim
7 legislative committee by October 1, 2019; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the secretary of corrections, the secretary of
10 children, youth and families and the chair of the juvenile
11 justice advisory committee.