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SENATE MEMORIAL 10

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES, NEW MEXICO AND NATIVE AMERICAN
TRIBES TO TAKE PROACTIVE STEPS TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND ALL
VICTIMS OF SEXUAL CRIMES AND TO HOLD THE PERPETRATORS
ACCOUNTABLE.

WHEREAS, sexual violence against children, youth, women
and all others is horrendous and all too common in the United
States; and

WHEREAS, every sixty-eight seconds, an American is
sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, on average, there are almost four hundred sixty-
four thousand victims, age twelve or older, of sexual violence
such as rape and sexual assault each year in the United States;
and

WHEREAS, on average, Native Americans are twice as likely

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1 to experience rape or sexual assault compared to all other
2 races; and

3 WHEREAS, children are at the highest risk of sexual
4 violence, and child sexual abuse is such a widespread problem
5 that every nine minutes, child protective services finds enough
6 evidence to substantiate a claim of child sexual abuse,
7 although it is known that child sexual abuse occurs much more
8 frequently; and

9 WHEREAS, of all victims under the age of eighteen, two out
10 of three are between the ages of twelve and seventeen; and

11 WHEREAS, many child or youth victims of sexual abuse or
12 rape by acquaintances or family members do not reveal their
13 experiences; and

14 WHEREAS, the trauma from abuse lives on in the victims of
15 these terrible crimes; and

16 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences and violence are
17 known to have long-lasting effects in many aspects of a
18 person's life, and the cost of those effects is not only felt
19 by the victims but also by their families and entire
20 communities; and

21 WHEREAS, there are also economic costs that can be
22 attributed to these crimes; and

23 WHEREAS, sexual assaults and the lack of accountability
24 for them contribute to a public health and safety epidemic; and

25 WHEREAS, as these crimes persist, the victims are at

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1 increased risk of poor health outcomes, early death and
2 suicide; and

3 WHEREAS, more resources are needed for victims of sexual
4 violence, who often continue to live in the same communities as
5 the perpetrators; and

6 WHEREAS, much work remains to be done to address the
7 epidemic of sexual violence and to encourage the reporting of
8 crimes when crimes occur; and

9 WHEREAS, when these crimes go unreported or are reported
10 years after the crime occurred, cycles of hardship continue;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, even when these crimes are reported, statutes of
13 limitations are often unjust and unfavorable to the victims;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, there is a nationwide movement to remove or
16 adjust statutes of limitations for sexual violence cases;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
18 OF NEW MEXICO that the United States, New Mexico and Native
19 American tribes be requested to collaboratively take proactive
20 steps to protect children, women and all others who are victims
21 of sexual crimes and to hold the perpetrators accountable; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
24 governor and New Mexico's twenty-three Indian nations, tribes
25 and pueblos.

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