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HOUSE MEMORIAL 27

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

BEN LUJAN

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A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING PREVENTIVE FIRST-HAND EXPOSURE TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR ALL MIDDLE AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, juvenile crime is the fastest-growing segment of all criminal activity in the United States and in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the number of juveniles involved in gangs or gang activity has steadily increased over the last decade and shows no sign of declining in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the most effective solution to any problem is to avert it; and

WHEREAS, our educational institutions, particularly those that deal with children in the vulnerable years between ten and fifteen years of age, have a responsibility to impress upon their students the possible consequences of criminal or

antisocial activity;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all middle and junior high school administrators and those involved in supervising activities that transport students on field trips to governmental and other institutions be encouraged to include in such out-of-school activities visits to juvenile and adult correction facilities and attendance at sentencing proceedings in various state courts: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that police officers, juvenile probation and parole officers and other corrections officials be encouraged to visit public schools, especially middle and junior high schools, to help instill in our youth a healthy respect for those institutions, the law and for the need for following rules in a civilized society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to every public middle and junior high school administration in the state and to the secretary of public safety for distribution to all appropriate personnel and to the administrative office of the courts for appropriate di stri buti on.

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