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SENATE MEMORIAL 3

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Pauline B. Eisenstadt

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION STUDY
THE USE OF SCREENING MEASURES TO IDENTIFY TROUBLED CHILDREN
AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS.**

**WHEREAS, the public schools are to be commended for their
efforts to identify at-risk children and youth who are
emotionally disturbed or who are control problems and to
provide small, special education classes for such children, as
well as special services such as speech pathology,
occupational therapy and group and individual psychotherapy;
and**

**WHEREAS, despite the public schools' current efforts to
identify troubled children, many schools are likely to
overlook emotionally disturbed children who are shy and
withdrawn and whose behavior does not call attention to their**

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1 problems; and

2 WHEREAS, there are increasing concerns about children and
3 youth whose violent behavior threatens the safety and well-
4 being of other children in our schools; and

5 WHEREAS, an appropriate screening measure for use by
6 classroom teachers to screen for emotionally disturbed or
7 troubled children might be similar to an instrument that was
8 designed, researched and published in various books and
9 national journals that simply asks teachers to respond to the
10 following questions:

- 11 "A. Is this child overly aggressive or defiant?
- 12 B. Is this child overly withdrawn or timid?
- 13 C. Is this child a control problem in class?
- 14 D. Is this child an instructional problem in the
15 group?
- 16 E. Where would you rate this child's adjustment
17 with respect to your present group? Among the best? Among
18 the average? Among the poorest?
- 19 F. Would you rate this child as one of the two
20 most maladjusted children in your class?
- 21 G. Would you rate this child as one of the two
22 best adjusted children in your class?"; and

23 WHEREAS, the study should also include an identification
24 and assessment of appropriate primary and early intervention
25 programs to treat or address severe and chronic problems of

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1 troubled children;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
3 OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public education be
4 requested to study the use of appropriate screening or
5 assessment measures to identify troubled children, to examine
6 and recommend intervention programs to address the problems
7 identified and to develop a plan to assist teachers in
8 carrying out such identification and intervention; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of
10 public education report its findings and recommendations no
11 later than November 1, 1999 to the appropriate interim
12 committees and to the second session of the forty-fourth
13 legislature; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction.