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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 4**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Michael S. Sanchez**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP FAIR AND  
RESPECTFUL POLICIES REGARDING VISITATION BETWEEN INMATES AND  
THEIR FAMILIES.**

**WHEREAS, families of inmates incarcerated in the New  
Mexico correctional system remain committed to their loved  
ones; and**

**WHEREAS, family visits are a critical factor in fostering  
the rehabilitation of inmates; and**

**WHEREAS, since the *Duran* consent decree was vacated, the  
corrections department has not had a uniform policy regarding  
visitation between inmates and their family members; and**

**WHEREAS, families frequently do not receive notice of  
inmate transfers; and**

**WHEREAS, inmates are only allowed to make collect**

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1 telephone calls, and the expense of those calls is a deterrent  
2 to regular contact with family members; and

3 WHEREAS, the use of video visitation is inadequate to  
4 maintain family relationships; and

5 WHEREAS, the transfer of inmates to correctional  
6 facilities in other states is also an impediment to  
7 maintaining family relationships and imposes a financial  
8 hardship on family members; and

9 WHEREAS, strip searches of family members have become a  
10 frequent occurrence as a prerequisite to visits with inmates;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections department be  
13 requested to develop fair and respectful policies regarding  
14 visitation between inmates and their families; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the furtherance of  
16 developing visitation policies, the corrections department be  
17 requested to collaborate with an advisory group comprised of  
18 two representatives from inmates' families, two  
19 representatives from the corrections department and an  
20 additional two members agreed upon by the aforementioned  
21 representatives; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory group convene at  
23 least once a month during the 2001 interim period to develop  
24 fair and respectful visitation policies, including policies  
25 that address the issues set forth in this memorial; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department and the advisory group report to the corrections oversight committee no later than October 2001 regarding the development of just and fair family visitation policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of corrections.