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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 61**

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Pete Campos**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSION ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE STATE  
UNIVERSITIES TO COLLABORATE TO IMPLEMENT SUICIDE PREVENTION AND  
RESPONSE PROGRAMS IN ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND ALL INSTITUTIONS  
LISTED IN ARTICLE 12, SECTION 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW  
MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks number one in suicide rates  
among states in the nation; and**

**WHEREAS, suicide is the third-leading cause of death for  
youth fifteen to twenty-five years of age; the second-leading  
cause of death for youth ten to fourteen years of age; and the  
second-leading cause of death for college students according to  
the national association of suicidology; and**

**WHEREAS, according to the New Mexico youth risk and**

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1 resiliency survey for 2003, students were asked questions  
2 pertaining to feelings of sadness, depression and suicidal  
3 thoughts and the findings showed that twenty and six-tenths  
4 percent of females and thirteen and six-tenths percent of males  
5 in grades nine through twelve seriously considered suicide in  
6 2003; and

7 WHEREAS, the survey also showed that a total of fifteen  
8 and nine-tenths percent of New Mexico youth reported that in  
9 the year prior to the survey they had developed a suicide plan;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the survey also found that fourteen and one-half  
12 percent of young people attempted suicide in the year prior to  
13 the survey and seven and one-half percent were seriously  
14 injured due to a suicide attempt; and

15 WHEREAS, statistics show that more young adults die from  
16 suicide than die from cancer, heart disease, acquired immune  
17 deficiency syndrome, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia,  
18 influenza and chronic lung disease combined; and

19 WHEREAS, a protocol for the entire state to follow and  
20 adhere to would greatly benefit school officials, students,  
21 families and communities in responding to suicide attempts and  
22 completions within schools and communities; and

23 WHEREAS, the issue of youth suicide is one that affects  
24 family, friends, communities and the state as a whole; and

25 WHEREAS, because the future of New Mexico relies on the

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1 futures of young people who one day will be the business and  
2 community leaders, governors, doctors, teachers, attorneys,  
3 scientists and parents, no child or young adult should feel  
4 that the world would be better without him or her; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexicans owe it to the future to employ  
6 everyone's effort in addressing this important issue;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department, the  
9 commission on higher education, the department of health and  
10 representatives of the institutions listed in Article 12,  
11 Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico collaborate to  
12 address the issue of youth suicide by developing and providing  
13 training programs for teachers and students and developing a  
14 suicide prevention and response protocol and establishing  
15 suicide prevention and response programs in all public schools  
16 and universities in New Mexico; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public  
18 education, the director of the commission on higher education  
19 and the secretary of health take the lead to establish a  
20 protocol to be used in schools to provide suicide prevention  
21 and response training and report to an appropriate interim  
22 committee of the legislature on their progress no later than  
23 November 2005; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
25 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the director

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1 of the commission on higher education, the secretary of health  
2 and the presidents and boards of regents or governing boards of  
3 the institutions listed in Article 12, Section 11 of the  
4 constitution of New Mexico.

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