HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 20

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

URGING NEW MEXICANS TO SUPPORT THE HEART GALLERY OF NEW MEXICO

AND CONSIDER ADOPTING A NEW MEXICO CHILD.

WHEREAS, at any one time, between eight hundred and nine

hundred children are in the care of the children, youth and

families department awaiting adoption into loving families; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to increase the number of children

adopted into their "forever families", the children, youth and

families department in 2001 sponsored the nation's first heart

gallery exhibit; and

WHEREAS, the professional exhibit of portraits of children

awaiting adoption raised awareness among caring parents and

potential parents of the need to step forward and provide

loving, permanent homes to New Mexico children; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the heart gallery of New Mexico

1       inspired more than forty other states to hold or plan similar

2       heart gallery openings, which will ultimately lead to thousands

3       of successful adoptions around the country; and

4           WHEREAS, the successful efforts of the heart gallery of

5       New Mexico pushed New Mexico's adoption rate well above the

6       national rate but, despite that success, fewer than half the

7       children awaiting adoption in state care each year find their

8       "forever families";

9           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

10      STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it applaud the efforts of the

11      children, youth and families department and the heart gallery

12      of New Mexico and urge New Mexicans to consider adopting a

13      child into their family; and

14          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

15      transmitted to the children, youth and families department.

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