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SENATE MEMORIAL 38

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, IN
COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ENTITIES, STUDY AND
COMPILE DATA REGARDING CRIMINAL STREET GANG INTERVENTION AND
PREVENTION AND CONSOLIDATE AND CENTRALIZE STATEWIDE EFFORTS ON
COMBATING CRIMINAL STREET GANG ACTIVITY.

WHEREAS, the 2008 United States department of justice
national gang intelligence center report shows that criminal
gangs in the United States have swelled to an estimated one
million members and are responsible for up to eighty percent of
crimes committed in communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the national gang intelligence center estimates
that there are six hundred eighty gangs with approximately
thirteen thousand eight hundred members in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately five to seven gang

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1 members per one thousand residents in New Mexico, making it one
2 of the top five states per capita in gang membership in the
3 nation; and

4 WHEREAS, there are approximately four to six gang members
5 per every law enforcement officer in New Mexico, the third-
6 highest ratio in the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, criminal street gangs pose an ever-present danger
8 to all New Mexicans, in all communities and across all
9 socioeconomic divisions; and

10 WHEREAS, the impact of criminal street gang recruiting is
11 especially felt by the youth of New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, currently, no statutory definition or common
13 analytical structure exists to adequately combat the violence
14 and attendant issues surrounding criminal street gangs;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
16 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of public safety, in
17 coordination with federal, state and local entities, be
18 requested to study and compile data regarding criminal street
19 gang intervention and prevention; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of public
21 safety be requested to consolidate and centralize statewide
22 efforts on combating criminal street gang activity; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public safety
24 be requested to coordinate with federal, state and local
25 partners, including the corrections department, the children,

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1 youth and families department, the offices of the district
2 attorneys, representatives from county and local law
3 enforcement and others, as the secretary of public safety deems
4 appropriate, in order to agree upon a common definition through
5 rulemaking that will assist in reducing the violence, harm and
6 criminal activity associated with criminal street gangs in New
7 Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the entities with which the
9 department of public safety coordinates its efforts to reduce
10 gang activity use the following definition of "criminal street
11 gang":

12 "criminal street gang" means an ongoing group, club,
13 organization or association of three or more persons
14 that has as one of its primary purposes the
15 commission of one or more of the criminal offenses
16 described in the New Mexico Criminal Code, Chapters
17 30 and 33 NMSA 1978"; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coordination among these
19 entities reflect the best practices and findings of the
20 national gang intelligence center and other federal efforts to
21 address criminal street gang activity; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of public
23 safety present the preliminary findings of these entities'
24 efforts at coordinating to reduce gang activity to the
25 appropriate interim legislative committee by November 30, 2013;

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1 and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the secretary of public safety, the secretary of
4 corrections and the secretary of children, youth and families.

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