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SENATE MEMORIAL 24

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DETERMINE THE  
FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RISK AND RESILIENCY  
ASSESSMENT PROJECT FOR STUDENTS STATEWIDE.

WHEREAS, every two years, public high school and middle  
school students from throughout New Mexico provide information  
about their health behaviors by participation in the New Mexico  
youth risk and resiliency survey; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico youth risk and resiliency survey  
was created to gather input from students about behaviors that  
present health risks, including alcohol and drug use, tobacco  
use, sexual activity and thoughts of suicide and suicide  
attempts, and health issues, such as body weight and asthma;  
and

WHEREAS, the survey is conducted by the department of

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1 health and the public education department and includes  
2 participation from nearly every school district, covering more  
3 than three hundred schools and thirty thousand students; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of the few states that also  
5 collects information about resiliency factors, such as  
6 relationships in the family, school and community and with  
7 peers; and

8 WHEREAS, the risk and resiliency assessment project for  
9 students was developed collaboratively with Albuquerque high  
10 school students over a two-year period, from 2012 through 2013,  
11 to include input from youth on how to understand and make use  
12 of public health data from the New Mexico youth risk and  
13 resiliency survey; and

14 WHEREAS, students and adults who participate in the risk  
15 and resiliency assessment project gain a deeper understanding  
16 of adolescent health issues in their schools and communities;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, students learn how to analyze data, gain  
19 leadership skills and become experienced facilitators and  
20 connect with school and community groups to form partnerships;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, adult perceptions of youth in their communities  
23 improved with participation in the risk and resiliency  
24 assessment project; and

25 WHEREAS, historically, participants have rarely engaged in

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1 analysis and interpretation of the health data they provide;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, input from young people has been largely absent  
4 from research, program development and policymaking that comes  
5 about from health surveys, such as the New Mexico youth risk  
6 and resiliency survey; and

7 WHEREAS, the risk and resiliency assessment project for  
8 students attempts to address this oversight by providing  
9 students the opportunity to analyze the most recent data from  
10 their schools or communities, to present those data to  
11 community members and to advocate on behalf of their peers and  
12 communities; and

13 WHEREAS, the ultimate goal of the risk and resiliency  
14 assessment project for students is for young people to make  
15 positive changes in New Mexico schools and communities; and

16 WHEREAS, to reach that goal, it is proposed that the risk  
17 and resiliency assessment project for students be established  
18 as a statewide program; and

19 WHEREAS, the risk and resiliency assessment project for  
20 student participants collaborated with the university of New  
21 Mexico prevention research center to develop a full curriculum  
22 and project manual, which are ready for statewide  
23 dissemination; and

24 WHEREAS, the department of health's office of school and  
25 adolescent health has the existing infrastructure through

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1 school-based health centers and the natural helpers programs  
2 compatible with the implementation of the risk and resiliency  
3 assessment project statewide;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
5 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to  
6 determine the feasibility of implementation of the risk and  
7 resiliency assessment project for students statewide; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health  
9 report its findings and recommendations to the legislative  
10 education study committee by November 1, 2016; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the partners of the risk and resiliency  
13 assessment project for students, the secretary of health, the  
14 secretary of public education, the chair of the legislative  
15 education study committee and the president of the university  
16 of New Mexico.

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