

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 102

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT AND THE CHILDREN, YOUTH
12 AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE STATUS OF
13 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS IN THEIR
14 DEPARTMENTS.

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16 WHEREAS, large numbers of New Mexico's youth experience
17 early contact with the justice system and are at greater risk
18 for future, more serious contact as adults; and

19 WHEREAS, this contact may affect and limit opportunities
20 for youth to contribute to society as adults and imposes
21 significant costs and harm to communities; and

22 WHEREAS, restorative justice programs help youth make
23 better choices, engage in school, graduate and transition into
24 vocational opportunities or higher education and reduce contact
25 with the juvenile and criminal justice systems and help reduce

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1 future costs, reduce harm to individuals and the community and
2 assist with productive youth development; and

3 WHEREAS, restorative justice is a facilitated process that
4 allows everyone involved in a conflict to be heard and take
5 responsibility for any harm caused, that seeks ways to repair
6 harm and make things right as much as possible and that
7 restores relationships and community; and

8 WHEREAS, restorative justice programs seek to attract new
9 resources, including funding and volunteers from the community,
10 professional organizations and faith-based organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, many states, including New Mexico, counties,
12 cities and other jurisdictions have implemented restorative
13 justice practices in schools, in criminal justice systems in
14 pre- and post-adjudication stages and in neighborhoods; and

15 WHEREAS, those states, counties, cities and other
16 jurisdictions can proudly point to reduced recidivism, greater
17 harmony in neighborhoods and in schools, a sense that the
18 justice system has served victims of crime and other societal
19 benefits;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
21 OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections department and the children,
22 youth and families department be requested to study and report
23 on the status of restorative justice programs and contracts in
24 their departments; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department and

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1 the children, youth and families department study programs with
2 demonstrated success for possible replication throughout New
3 Mexico to the benefit of all residents; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department and
5 the children, youth and families department report their
6 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim
7 legislative committee by October 1, 2019; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the secretary of corrections, the secretary of
10 children, youth and families and the chair of the juvenile
11 justice advisory committee.