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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 88

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1996

INTRODUCED BY

JOHN PINTO

A JOINT MEMORIAL

OPPOSING THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT PLAN TO TRANSFER NEW MEXICO PRISONERS TO TEXAS.

WHEREAS, certain counties have entered memoranda of understanding and joint powers agreements with the corrections department to incarcerate state prisoners; and

WHEREAS, the corrections department has now decided to ignore those agreements and send the prisoners to Texas for incarceration; and

WHEREAS, this decision will force layoffs of New Mexico citizen taxpayers, deny employment opportunities to New Mexicans and pay New Mexico taxpayers' money to Texas instead; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefit has not been demonstrated, and the economic consequences to New Mexicans may be in the millions of dollars; and

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WHEREAS, Texas prison standards have caused liability problems for other states that have sent prisoners to Texas, such as Colorado; and

WHEREAS, this decision will impose a hardship on New Mexican families who will have to travel long distances to visit incarcerated relatives, further stressing families already stressed by their situations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature oppose the corrections department plan to transfer prisoners to Texas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of corrections and to the governor.