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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 21**

**43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998**

**INTRODUCED BY  
JOE NESTOR CHAVEZ**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS WORK  
WITH MUNICIPAL, MAGISTRATE AND DISTRICT JUDGES TO USE THE  
STEERING COLUMN INTERLOCK SYSTEM TO PREVENT MULTIPLE-DWI  
OFFENDERS FROM DRIVING.**

**WHEREAS, driving while intoxicated offenses have received  
extensive legislative and social attention in recent years;  
and**

**WHEREAS, several well-publicized accidents involving  
multiple-DWI offenders have galvanized the public's  
frustration and anger with government's seeming lack of  
ability to adequately respond to the problem; and**

**WHEREAS, too many lives are tragically damaged, if not  
ended, by the chronic problem of DWI; and**

**WHEREAS, drinking and driving is a problem that crosses**

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1 social, psychological, medical, political and legal  
2 institutional boundaries and each public servant touched by  
3 the problem must accept the responsibility to the best of his  
4 ability and conscientiously; and

5 WHEREAS, technological advances in the design of motor  
6 vehicles have resulted in equipment being manufactured that  
7 prevents an intoxicated person from starting the engine of a  
8 vehicle or operating that vehicle; and

9 WHEREAS, the steering column interlock system is one of  
10 those technologies that seems to work under certain  
11 circumstances; and

12 WHEREAS, the judiciary plays a critical role in the  
13 administration of justice relative to DWI penalties;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the administrative office of the  
16 courts be requested to work with municipal, magistrate and  
17 district judges to use the steering column interlock system in  
18 sentencing of DWI offenders and to prevent multiple-DWI  
19 offenders from driving under the influence and placing  
20 citizens at risk; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the director of the administrative office of  
23 the courts and to the chief justice of the supreme court.