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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 20

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

INTRODUCED BY

CARLOS R. CISNEROS

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
TO STUDY THE RAPID RISE IN CHILD ABUSE AND THE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO THE PROBLEM

WHEREAS, there has been a dramatic rise in child abuse incidents, especially in rural areas, and law enforcement and social service family support agencies are strained beyond their capacity to respond adequately to the problem; and

WHEREAS, the number of American children seriously injured by child abuse quadrupled between 1986 and 1993, from one hundred forty-two thousand to five hundred sixty-five thousand, but during the same time period child abuse investigations plummeted from forty-four percent to twenty-eight percent of reported cases; and

WHEREAS, in the year 1991 to 1992, for example, child

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1 abuse cases in Taos county alone increased fifty percent, and
2 now the county averages 1.2 child abuse referrals per day; and

3 WHEREAS, less than fifty percent of referrals to the
4 district attorney will result in prosecutions, and less than
5 two percent actually go to trial; and

6 WHEREAS, an effective child abuse prevention program and
7 law enforcement effort to stop abusers and treat victims
8 requires more resources than are presently available to local
9 authorities in Taos and other rural counties;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative health and human
12 services committee be requested to assess community resources
13 available to address child abuse problems, including the
14 availability of child advocacy, education, prosecution, law
15 enforcement, medical care and direct family services; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative health and
17 human services committee report its findings and
18 recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 1998; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to members of the legislative health and human
21 services committee.

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

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6 February 5, 1998

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8 Mr. President:

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10 Your RULES COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

11
12 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 20

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14 has had it under consideration and reports same with
15 recommendation that it DO PASS.

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18 Respectfully submitted,

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23 _____
24 Gloria Howes, Chairman

Adopted _____ Not

Adopted _____

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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Date _____

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The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

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Yes: 5

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No: 0

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Excused: Adair, Aragon, Gorham

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Absent: None

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1 **FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE**

2 **SECOND SESSION, 1998**

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6 **February 18, 1998**

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8 **Mr. Speaker:**

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10 **Your LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE, to whom**
11 **has been referred**

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13 **SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 20**

14
15 **has had it under consideration and reports same with**
16 **recommendation that it DO PASS.**

17 **Respectfully submitted,**

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21 _____
22 **Sheryl M. Williams, Chairman**

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

3 Page 6

4 Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
5 (Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

6
7 Date _____

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9 The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against

10 Yes: 7

11 Excused: Macko

12 Absent: None

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