1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18		
2	44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999		
3	INTRODUCED BY		
4	Linda M Lopez		
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6			
7	FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE AND		
8	THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE		
9			
10	A JOINT MEMORIAL		
11	REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT		
12	OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO EXAMINE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE		
13	ABSENCE OF SEX EDUCATION IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS		
14	AND THE UNACCEPTABLY HIGH TEEN PREGNANCY RATE IN NEW MEXICO.		
15			
16	WHEREAS, New Mexico had the third highest birth rate in		
17	the United States for females aged fifteen to seventeen in		
18	1995; and		
19	WHEREAS, teen mothers are less likely to be employed,		
20	finish high school or attend college; and		
21	WHEREAS, teen mothers are less likely to be able to		
22	obtain quality child care; and		
23	WHEREAS, teen fathers earn two-thirds the income of males		
24	who delay parenting until after age twenty; and		
25	WHEREAS, by age twenty-three only sixty-five percent of		
	. 125087. 1		

<u>underscored material = new</u> [<del>bracketed material</del>] = delete teen fathers have completed high school or earned a general equivalency diploma; and

WHEREAS, teenage parents are often unaware of the severe social and economic consequences of becoming parents at a young age; and

WHEREAS, age-appropriate courses in sexuality are not required in most school districts beyond sixth grade; and

WHEREAS, when health education is integrated into other courses, current rules do not require instructors to be certified in the health sciences; and

WHEREAS, community assessment surveys in Raton, Socorro, Carlsbad and Santa Fe found that between seventy and ninety-two percent of adults support comprehensive abstinencebased sex education in their schools beginning by the sixth grade; and

WHEREAS, over eighty-one percent of students surveyed by the mayor's youth advisory board in Las Cruces believe teen pregnancy is a problem in Las Cruces; and

WHEREAS, there may be a correlation between what students are taught in school and students' behavior; and

WHEREAS, states with low teen pregnancy rates may offer examples of programs that can reduce the prevalence of teen pregnancies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health and the . 125087.1

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		1	state department of public education examine the relationship
		2	between the absence of sex education in middle school and high
		3	school, and the unacceptably high teen pregnancy rate in New
		4	Mexico; and
		5	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
		6	transmitted to the department of health and the state
		7	department of public education.
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1	FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE SJM 18/a			
2	FIRST SESSION, 1999			
3				
4	February 3, 1999			
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6	Mr. President:			
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8	Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been			
9	referred			
10				
11	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18			
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13	has had it under consideration and reports same with			
14	recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:			
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16	1. On page 3, between lines 4 and 5 insert:			
17				
18 19	"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health and			
19 20	the state department of public education examine methods to			
20 21	involve parents in the education of their children and require			
~1 22	accountability on the part of parents; and".,			
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~3 24	and thence referred to the EDUCATION COMMITTEE.			
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