| 1 | SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18 | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2 | 44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999 | | |
| 3 | INTRODUCED BY | | |
| 4 | Linda M Lopez | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 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> [bracketed material] = 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 |
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| | | 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 | | | |
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| 2 | FIRST SESSION, 1999 | | | |
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| 4 | February 3, 1999 | | | |
| 5 | | | | |
| 6 | Mr. President: | | | |
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| 8 | Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been | | | |
| 9 | referred | | | |
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| 11 | SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18 | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | has had it under consideration and reports same with | | | |
| 14 | recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows: | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 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"., | | | |
| 23 | | | | |
| ~3 24 | and thence referred to the EDUCATION COMMITTEE. | | | |
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