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HOUSE MEMORIAL 2

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Pauline K. Gubbels

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
ISSUES RELATED TO SCHOOL VIOLENCE.

WHEREAS, our neighboring state, Colorado, was recently
the location of the most lethal school shooting in the
nation's history; and

WHEREAS, schools in New Mexico may need to prepare for
similar potential incidents of school violence; and

WHEREAS, one of the contributors to the violence in
Colorado was the ridicule directed at some students by others,
and had this been reported, the violence may have been
prevented; and

WHEREAS, school counselors are often required to spend
valuable student counseling time filling out routine paperwork
instead of assisting their students, a practice that could be
eliminated if the paperwork were assigned to secretaries and
teachers; and

WHEREAS, the addition of a formal unit on adolescent
development dealing with disturbed adolescent behavior to the

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1 curriculum for secondary teacher certification would give
2 teachers strategies to recognize and deal with disturbed
3 adolescent behavior when they encounter it in the schools; and

4 WHEREAS, adding school-sponsored parent education at the
5 schools may provide parents with strategies for dealing with
6 everyday student frustrations and disturbed adolescent
7 behaviors; and

8 WHEREAS, providing training, additional equipment and
9 proper egress from school buildings for disabled students and
10 staff may assist school security and police officers prepare
11 for and control an emergency situation;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
14 legislative education study committee study issues surrounding
15 school violence, including requiring school counselors to
16 spend their work hours counseling students rather than
17 completing paperwork or performing any ancillary duties to
18 their jobs as counselors; adding a formal unit to student
19 curriculum for secondary teacher certification relating to
20 disturbed adolescent behavior and strategies one can use to
21 intervene when such behavior occurs; creating peer groups to
22 report when ridicule directed at one or more students on an
23 incessant basis occurs; developing school-sponsored parent
24 education; additional training and equipping of police
25 officers and school security to increase security at schools;
and creating an architectural requirement for new school
buildings to enable rapid egress of students and staff with
disabilities in the event an emergency occurs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the members of the legislative education study
2 committee.

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