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SENATE MEMORIAL 51

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

William P. Soules

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO
STUDY POTENTIAL CHANGES TO STATE STATUTES TO PROVIDE GREATER
GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SAFEGUARDS FOR ALL LEVELS OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS.

WHEREAS, the frequency of firearms attacks and gun
violence has continued to increase since the December 2012
massacre at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown,
Connecticut, where twenty first-grade students and six adults
were gunned down; and

WHEREAS, the gun violence archive, a nonprofit corporation
formed to provide access to accurate information about gun-
related violence in the United States, reports that from
January 1 to August 11, 2016, there were three thousand five
hundred eighty-four gun-related incidents and eight thousand

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1 six hundred eleven deaths; and

2 WHEREAS, of the total number of gun-related deaths or
3 injuries, three hundred ninety-three were children aged up to
4 eleven years old and one thousand eight hundred eighty-eight
5 involved teens aged twelve to seventeen; and

6 WHEREAS, the most recent mass murder in New Mexico was on
7 June 11, 2016 in Roswell, when one adult and four children aged
8 three, seven, eleven and fourteen died as a result of gun
9 violence; and

10 WHEREAS, there is a national trend of increased use of
11 guns in student suicides, which is greater than that of student
12 homicides in schools; and

13 WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2015, the suicide rate among New
14 Mexico youth aged ten to twenty-four years was consistently at
15 least sixty percent higher than that of the United States,
16 according to department of health statistics; and

17 WHEREAS, department of health statistics also report that
18 from 2011 to 2015, suicide rates among youth increased
19 significantly with advancing age groups from ten to fourteen
20 years, fifteen to nineteen years and twenty to twenty-four
21 years and were higher for males than females in every age
22 group; and

23 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for a task force to study
24 the means by which firearms are purchased and transferred in
25 the state and to consider potential changes to state statutes

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1 to ensure the safety and well-being of school-age children and
2 young adults;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
4 OF NEW MEXICO that the appropriate interim legislative
5 committee study potential changes to state statutes to provide
6 greater gun violence prevention and safeguards for all levels
7 of violence against school-age children and young adults; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate interim
9 legislative committee publish a report of its findings and
10 recommendations at the conclusion of the 2017 interim; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the co-
13 chairs of the New Mexico legislative council.