

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 1

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 2020**

INTRODUCED BY

Gregg Schmedes

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ADOPT POLICIES OF FOCUSED PROTECTION REGARDING CORONAVIRUS-DISEASE-2019-RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS AND POLICIES TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE WHILE ENDING LOCKDOWN-DRIVEN POLICIES AND SUPPORTING SCIENCE-DRIVEN STRATEGIES.

WHEREAS, the United Nations children's fund estimates that up to one hundred thirty million people worldwide may go hungry because of lockdowns and other containment measures; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a high unemployment rate, resulting in decreased health care coverage and ability of residents to acquire healthy food and safe shelter; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico currently has the third-highest child poverty rate in the nation; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a medically underserved state; and

WHEREAS, both natural coronavirus disease 2019 infection

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 and vaccination will lead to herd immunity; and

2 WHEREAS, hospital admissions and emergency room visits for  
3 acute mental health crises have increased since the coronavirus  
4 disease 2019 pandemic began; and

5 WHEREAS, the federal centers for disease control and  
6 prevention found that one in four young adults between the ages  
7 of eighteen and twenty-four have seriously considered suicide  
8 this year; and

9 WHEREAS, there is only one pediatric inpatient mental  
10 health rehabilitative center in New Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, the infection fatality rate for the general  
12 population due to coronavirus disease 2019 is two-hundredths  
13 percent, while the infection fatality rate for those over age  
14 seventy is at least four-tenths percent; and

15 WHEREAS, since the implementation of lockdown policies,  
16 there have been lower child vaccination rates, worsening  
17 cardiovascular disease outcomes, fewer cancer screenings and  
18 deteriorating mental health, leading to greater excess  
19 mortality to come; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico's lockdown policies and school  
21 district decisions have kept most school-aged children out of  
22 in-person learning; and

23 WHEREAS, leaving lockdown measures in place could cause  
24 irreparable damage, with the underprivileged disproportionately  
25 harmed; and

.218560.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1           WHEREAS, scientific discovery has revealed which  
2           populations are at the greatest risk of serious illness or  
3           death from coronavirus disease 2019 infection; and

4           WHEREAS, policies of focused protection allow those who  
5           are at minimal risk of coronavirus-disease-2019-related death  
6           to live their lives normally and build up immunity to the virus  
7           through natural infection, while better protecting those who  
8           are at highest risk;

9           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
10          REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be  
11          requested to adopt policies regarding public health orders  
12          consistent with focused protection, reflecting the most  
13          compassionate approach to preventing coronavirus-disease-2019-  
14          related deaths; and

15          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
16          adopt policies to promote nursing homes to use staff with  
17          acquired immunity, perform frequent coronavirus disease 2019  
18          testing of other staff and all visitors and minimize staff  
19          rotation; and

20          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
21          adopt policies to aid retired people living at home to have  
22          groceries and other essentials delivered to their homes; and

23          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
24          adopt policies to allow those who are not at greater risk of  
25          serious illness or death from coronavirus disease 2019

.218560.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 infection to immediately be allowed to resume life as normal,  
2 while engaging in hand washing and staying home if they become  
3 ill; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
5 adopt policies to open schools and universities for in-person  
6 learning; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
8 adopt policies to resume sports, arts, music, cultural  
9 activities and extracurricular activities, allowing people who  
10 have a greater risk of serious illness or death from  
11 coronavirus disease 2019 infection to participate if they wish,  
12 while society as a whole enjoys the protection conferred upon  
13 the vulnerable by those who have built up herd immunity; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the governor.