

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 1

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Harold Pope and Leo Jaramillo

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019;
12 HONORING THE SACRIFICES THAT ESSENTIAL WORKERS HAVE MADE TO
13 PROTECT AND SAVE LIVES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES; DECLARING SUPPORT
14 FOR A PERMANENT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 MEMORIAL TO BE LOCATED
15 IN BERNALILLO COUNTY ON STATE TRUST LANDS TO HONOR THE VICTIMS
16 OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019.

17
18 WHEREAS, coronavirus disease 2019 is an illness caused by
19 the SARS-CoV-2 virus that can transmit from person to person
20 and has spread across the world, creating a global pandemic
21 that is having catastrophic effects on human life, local
22 communities and the economy; and

23 WHEREAS, local and state governments, health departments,
24 Native leadership and public servants have taken bold actions
25 to protect residents, support struggling local economies and

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1 find innovative ways to provide services; and

2 WHEREAS, in response to the rapid spread of coronavirus
3 disease 2019 and stay-at-home orders, essential workers have
4 stepped up to provide critical services to help protect our
5 communities and save lives, sacrificing their own health and
6 safety; and

7 WHEREAS, coronavirus disease 2019 has had a
8 disproportionate impact on low-income communities and
9 communities that face systemic racism, exacerbating inequities
10 already prevalent in systems that the United States must
11 address as a nation; and

12 WHEREAS, coronavirus disease 2019 has had a devastating
13 impact on Native American communities, with Native Americans
14 losing almost six years of life expectancy, and has caused the
15 incalculable loss of elders who carried with them the
16 communities' cultures, languages and traditions; and

17 WHEREAS, public health guidance and policies targeted at
18 prevention, such as social distancing, wearing masks in public
19 and staying home, help mitigate the spread of coronavirus
20 disease 2019, prevent illness and lessen the burden on
21 individuals and society; and

22 WHEREAS, coronavirus disease 2019 has harmed the health
23 and well-being of children by reducing access to care and
24 health services, disrupting schooling, undermining their sense
25 of safety and security, increasing stress on caregivers and

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1 tragically robbing nearly eight million children across the
2 world of a parent or caregiver; and

3 WHEREAS, the symptoms and severity of coronavirus disease
4 2019 can vary dramatically by individual, and the long-term
5 health implications for survivors are largely unknown, with
6 many survivors suffering from lingering side effects of the
7 disease long after they no longer test positive; and

8 WHEREAS, more than six million seven hundred thousand
9 people worldwide and more than one million people in the United
10 States have lost their lives due to coronavirus disease 2019,
11 and in New Mexico alone, more than eight thousand eight hundred
12 lives have been lost to this deadly virus; and

13 WHEREAS, each life lost to coronavirus disease 2019
14 matters and leaves a hole in the hearts of loved ones, family
15 members and surrounding community;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature support the
18 construction of a permanent coronavirus disease 2019 memorial
19 in Bernalillo county on state trust land; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the permanent coronavirus
21 disease 2019 memorial honor both those who lost their lives to
22 coronavirus disease 2019 and the survivors who are forever
23 marked by coronavirus disease 2019 and who continue to suffer
24 from the impact of the pandemic; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the Corrales village council, the Albuquerque
2 city council, the Bernalillo county board of county
3 commissioners, the Sandoval county board of county
4 commissioners, the all pueblo council of governors, the Las
5 Cruces city council, the Santa Fe city council and marked by
6 covid New Mexico.

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