

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 24, 2011 THROUGH
3 JANUARY 30, 2011 AS "NEW MEXICO MENTORSHIP WEEK" IN THE NEW
4 MEXICO SENATE.

5
6 WHEREAS, sustained relationships with caring adults are
7 among the most important success factors in a child's life;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, according to Public/Private Ventures, an
10 independent, national research organization, children matched
11 with big brothers big sisters are forty-six percent less
12 likely to start using illegal drugs, twenty-seven percent
13 less likely to start using alcohol, fifty-two percent less
14 likely to skip a day of school and thirty-three percent less
15 likely to hit someone or get in a fight and are more trusting
16 of parents or guardians and less likely to lie to them; and

17 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over three thousand two
18 hundred children were matched with caring adult mentors in
19 2009 throughout New Mexico, and thousands more are in need of
20 services each year; and

21 WHEREAS, according to the Annie E. Casey foundation,
22 society realizes ten dollars (\$10.00) in benefits for every
23 one dollar (\$1.00) invested in the mentoring of one youth;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, many mentoring programs exist in New Mexico,

1 including several regional chapters of big brothers big
2 sisters; numerous programs sponsored by the university of
3 New Mexico mentoring institute; the New Mexico youth
4 challenge academy, sponsored by the New Mexico army national
5 guard; the national Indian youth leadership program; and
6 more; and

7 WHEREAS, youth and adult volunteers need greater access
8 to information about these programs so that they can be
9 better utilized by youth and so that more adults will
10 volunteer as mentors; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico first hosted town hall sessions
12 during May and June of 2010 titled *Raising the Aspirations of*
13 *New Mexico Youth*, at which three hundred participants from
14 all four regions of the state recognized the importance of
15 adult role models and mentors for youth; and

16 WHEREAS, the findings of these town hall sessions
17 support the need to create comprehensive mentoring programs
18 within regions, communities and schools so that each
19 student's unique needs can be addressed; and

20 WHEREAS, January is national mentoring month, during
21 which all public officials, business and community leaders,
22 educators and Americans across the country are encouraged to
23 recognize the importance of mentoring; and

24 WHEREAS, declaring the week of January 24, 2011 through
25 January 30, 2011 as "New Mexico Mentorship Week" in the

1 New Mexico senate provides an opportunity to focus on and
2 pursue the proposed actions and priorities identified in the
3 aforementioned New Mexico first town hall sessions;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the week of January 24, 2011 through
6 January 30, 2011 be declared "New Mexico Mentorship Week" in
7 the New Mexico senate; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the governor and to all members of the
10 New Mexico senate.

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