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SENATE MEMORIAL 63

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph Cervantes

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNING BODIES OF EVERY PUBLIC POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN NEW MEXICO TO IMPLEMENT A TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS POLICY.

WHEREAS, the federal centers for disease control and prevention report that cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, accounting for approximately four hundred forty-three thousand deaths, or one out of every five deaths, in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, the department of health reports that nearly one-fourth of New Mexico high school students smoke, a rate significantly higher than the national rate for this age group; and

WHEREAS, approximately twelve percent of New Mexico's youth chew tobacco or use snuff, which is also higher than the

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1 national rate of eight and nine-tenths percent; and

2 WHEREAS, the department of health also reports that nearly
3 one-fourth of young adults in New Mexico between the ages of
4 eighteen and twenty-four smoke; and

5 WHEREAS, since most smokers began smoking before the age
6 of eighteen, policies that create smoke-free environments have
7 been shown to decrease youth smoking; and

8 WHEREAS, according to the American lung association, two
9 hundred ninety colleges and universities prohibit smoking and
10 all forms of tobacco use everywhere on their campuses; and

11 WHEREAS, effective August 1, 2009, the board of regents of
12 the university of New Mexico adopted a policy to prohibit the
13 use of tobacco products on all university property except in a
14 small number of designated smoking areas; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the American lung association, no
16 other public post-secondary educational institutions in New
17 Mexico have adopted tobacco-free campus policies;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
19 OF NEW MEXICO that the governing bodies of each public post-
20 secondary educational institution in New Mexico join the
21 university of New Mexico and be requested to adopt a tobacco-
22 free campus policy, effective July 1, 2013; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any governing body of a public
24 post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico that does
25 not have a tobacco-free campus policy in place effective July

.192782.1

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1 1, 2013 be requested to report the reasons for the lack of such
2 policy to the legislative health and human services committee
3 and the tobacco settlement revenue oversight committee by July
4 1, 2013; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the presidents and the governing bodies of each
7 public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico,
8 except for the university of New Mexico.

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