

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 13

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 SUPPORTING THE IDEA THAT EVERY NEW MEXICO CHILD SHOULD HAVE
12 AMPLE OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES.

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14 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a state rich in diverse natural
15 resources and wildlife, providing residents with traditional
16 and long-valued outdoor recreation opportunities such as
17 hunting, fishing, boating and hiking; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico children have high rates of obesity
19 and diabetes, with one-third who are overweight and whose
20 diabetes rates have jumped forty percent in the decade from
21 1990 to 2000; and

22 WHEREAS, an emerging body of literature indicates that
23 being in nature is increasingly important for children raised
24 in highly industrialized urban environments; and

25 WHEREAS, if integrated into pediatric care, outdoor

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1 activity in natural environments has the potential to improve
2 children's mental health and physical well-being; and

3 WHEREAS, young people who are environmentally literate and
4 skilled will have a competitive advantage in traditional and
5 emerging natural resource economic sectors; and

6 WHEREAS, taking care of natural resources and forming good
7 stewardship habits at an early age are essential aspects of
8 civic engagement; and

9 WHEREAS, the wonder and joy of discovery in nature is a
10 quintessential childhood experience, and it promotes health,
11 academic achievement, future economic success and environmental
12 literacy;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the idea that every New
15 Mexico child should have the opportunity to:

- 16 A. play outside and explore freely;
- 17 B. watch wildlife in the outdoors;
- 18 C. wade in a clean river, creek, lake or pond;
- 19 D. catch a fish and hunt for food;
- 20 E. camp out under the stars;
- 21 F. plant a seed and visit farms and ranches;
- 22 G. travel a trail;
- 23 H. explore New Mexico's public parks, nature
24 centers and wildlife sanctuaries;
- 25 I. actively care for land, water and wildlife; and

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1 J. dig in the dirt and learn about the world from
2 the ground up; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and
4 families department, the energy, minerals and natural resources
5 department, the department of game and fish, the public
6 education department and the department of health be encouraged
7 to develop and advertise outdoor programs for children; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the governor, the children, youth and families
10 department, the energy, minerals and natural resources
11 department, the department of game and fish, the public
12 education department and the department of health.