HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 34

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Raymond G. Sanchez

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY OPTIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT ACTS TOWARD WILDLIFE THAT RESULT FROM MALICIOUS, IGNORANT OR EVIL BEHAVIOR AND HAVE NO LEGITIMATE PURPOSE AND TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO SEE IF THERE IS A CORRELATION BETWEEN CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AND CRUELTY TO PEOPLE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico citizens, including the wild friends, are concerned about violence to wildlife resulting from malicious, ignorant or evil behavior; and

WHEREAS, threats to wildlife include violent and harmful acts with no legitimate purpose, and legitimate purposes include protection of humans and domestic animals, lawful hunting and fishing activities and other acts allowed by law; and

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WHEREAS, violence that occurs towards wildlife, especially to birds, fish, reptiles and small mammals, includes such cruel actions as burning animals alive, using animals for target practice, killing with firecrackers or other explosives, poisoning, beating, breaking bones or cutting off body parts, decapitation and electrocution; and

WHEREAS, youth who do violence to all kinds of animals often consider it just play or do it from bravado, and without education they may not know that what they are doing is wrong or even illegal; and

WHEREAS, people who habitually abuse wild and other animals also may abuse people; and

WHEREAS, the wild friends of New Mexico want to bring illegitimate and illegal violence to wildlife to public awareness; and

WHEREAS, many people are unaware of the seriousness of the problem of violence to wildlife and need to be informed through such methods as public service announcements, brochures, posters and school or public lectures by guest speakers; and

WHEREAS, young people should be provided with positive activities after school and receive training and counseling for problems such as anger management and violence; and

WHEREAS, laws are created to make wrongful acts, such as poaching, illegal and to establish consequences for those
acts, and certain state programs are created to prevent
certain problems, such as violent behavior, from occurring and
to help educate people; and

WHEREAS, both wild and other animals should be respected,
cared for and appreciated for what they provide to humans; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of game and fish
should be recognized for its hunter education program which
has grown from a firearms safety program to a comprehensive
program of wildlife identification, ethics, proper shot
placement and care of game; and

WHEREAS, wild animals that are sick or injured should be
rescued and rehabilitated or euthanized at a public facility,
and wildlife rehabilitation organizations should be recognized
and supported for their efforts; and

WHEREAS, people should be encouraged to report or have
the right to stop an illegal act of violence to wild and other
animals when they witness it; and

WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico want to stop the
illegal killing of wildlife, in part because orphaned young
animals are left to suffer and die, which is a crime against
the future of the species;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
requested to direct the appropriate interim committee to
examine laws against cruelty to wildlife and other animals to
recommend improvements for the effective prevention of violent acts that result from malicious, ignorant or evil behavior and have no legitimate purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee examine the implications of the possible link between habitual violence toward wild and other animals and violence toward humans, and consider requiring counseling and education for offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee examine what state agencies are doing to educate children and adults about these issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the members of the New Mexico legislative council.

- 4 -
Mr. Speaker:

Your JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 34

has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:

1. On page 1, line 15, strike "AND TO CONDUCT A STUDY
TO SEE IF" and insert in lieu thereof "RECOGNIZING THAT".

2. On page 3, lines 15 and 16, strike "or have the
right to stop".

3. On page 4, line 5, strike "possible".
Respectfully submitted,


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R. David Pederson, Chairman

Adopted ______________________ Not Adopted ______________________

(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date ________________

The roll call vote was 11 For 0 Against

Yes: 11

Excused: Luna

Absent: None

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Mr. President:

Your CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 34, as amended, has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS, and thence referred to the JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fernando R. Macias, Chairman

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The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against
Yes: 6
No: None
Excused: Eisenstadt, Griego, Payne, Sanchez
Absent: None
Mr. President:

Your JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 34, as amended has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael S. Sanchez, Chairman

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The roll call vote was 5 For 1 Against
Yes: 5
No: Davis
Excused: Aragon, McSorley
Absent: None