



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
Sept. 16, 2004

Contact: Gilbert Gallegos
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2217

Governor Bill Richardson praises decision to keep Sexual predator behind bars

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today released the following statement regarding a decision by the state Parole Board to reject a plea from David Holley, the former priest convicted of sex offenses, to be released from prison.

“I’m pleased that the Parole Board listened to the victims and decided to keep Mr. Holley behind bars,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “I am committed to protecting victims, especially victims of heinous crimes committed by sexual predators like Mr. Holley. Victims deserve to be heard.”

“This sex offender was convicted, and I, like most New Mexicans, expect him to remain behind bars.”

Governor Richardson had criticized a previous decision from the Parole Board that would have granted Mr. Holley a conditional parole. The Board failed to notify victims of Mr. Holley’s parole request.

The Governor instructed the Parole Board to immediately reconsider its decision, and give victims the opportunity to speak out about Mr. Holley’s request.

A Parole Board panel listened to testimony from victims on Tuesday, and subsequently voted 3-0 to reject Mr. Holley's request for parole.

#30#