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New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am pleased to support The New Mexico Humanities Council's effort to secure the future of New Mexico National History Day (NHD). Through its efforts, the NHD program has grown into a highly regarded, award winning program for young people in New Mexico.

Scores of young people hone research, critical thinking, writing and communicating skills by participating in the program. The Council's staff works closely with teachers, helping to improve the teaching and learning of history in New Mexico classrooms. Importantly, the Council provides a vehicle that allows students and teachers to study topics in-depth versus skimming the surface of history. In an era when much of the emphasis in school curriculum is on STEM education, New Mexico NHD is helping to fill the gap regarding civics and history education.

The NHD program in New Mexico changes students' lives, keeping some from dropping out of school, offers an exciting vehicle for classroom use, provides an opportunity for evaluation and praise, and brings accolades to students from New Mexico who represent their state each year at the national finals.

I strongly encourage your committee to look favorably upon the Council's request for support of New Mexico National History Day.

Sincerely,

Cathy Gorn, Ph.D.
Executive Director