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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 11

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A PRESCHOOL THROUGH POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR AN INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL THROUGH POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, throughout the country, individual states and local communities are looking for ways to improve student performance and access to college by creating a "seamless system of education" in which all levels of education coordinate, communicate and educate as one system, commonly called P-16 initiatives; and

WHEREAS, several states have initiated a voluntary and cooperative relationship between state boards of education and higher education systems that are seen as the success behind these initiatives; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's major priorities for education are improving student achievement and having a qualified teacher in every classroom; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that an effective way of

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1 ensuring student learning is through an education system that
2 begins in early childhood and ends with completion of college
3 or success in the work force, and promotes access,
4 accountability and lifelong learning opportunities for
5 children and adults; and

6 WHEREAS, the teacher education accountability council,
7 established by the commission on higher education and the
8 state board of education as a result of a three-year federal
9 grant for teacher quality enhancement in New Mexico, has taken
10 a leadership role in this collaboration and it would be
11 beneficial that the council continue after federal funding
12 ends; and

13 WHEREAS, the teacher education accountability council
14 could serve as a conduit to bring educators from all education
15 levels, businesses and community members together to create
16 agreed-upon core learning goals to raise the bar of academic
17 achievement for all students at all levels and improve New
18 Mexico's educational system;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the teacher education
21 accountability council as New Mexico's preschool through post-
22 secondary education advisory council to provide guidance in
23 the creation of aligned policy between public schools and
24 higher education so that all students complete high school
25 prepared to succeed in post-secondary education or the work
place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this council include within
its membership community members and representatives from the
public schools, two- and four-year institutions of higher

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1 education and businesses; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission on higher
3 education and the state department of public education develop
4 a plan for the advisory council that requires the alignment of
5 this work to be guided by the following long-term goals:

6 A. improve the achievement of New Mexico students
7 at all levels of education, preschool through post-secondary
8 programs;

9 B. upgrade teacher preparation programs through
10 recruitment, preparation and professional development
11 activities that are responsive to the objective of ensuring a
12 quality teacher in every classroom for every student;

13 C. close the gaps in K-12 achievement and in
14 access to post-secondary education between students from
15 majority and minority groups and between students from high-
16 and low-income groups;

17 D. focus the simultaneous reform of schools and
18 teacher education on practices to bring preschool through
19 post-secondary students from diverse groups to high levels of
20 achievement;

21 E. eliminate the barriers and redundancy between
22 schools and post-secondary institutions by aligning high
23 school exit standards with college admissions standards so
24 that high school graduates will be well prepared for college-
25 level work and can move smoothly to the next level without
requiring remediation; and

F. ensure that every adult and child in New Mexico
is provided with opportunities to develop literacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board of education

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1 and the commission on higher education be requested to
2 establish an integrated preschool through post-secondary
3 education data system, as part of this planning effort, to
4 provide the data information necessary to follow and assess
5 student progress in achieving identified goals; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission on higher
7 education, the state board of education and the advisory
8 council submit their plan and any recommendations deemed
9 necessary for legislation to the legislative education study
10 committee each year by November 1; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the executive director of the commission on
13 higher education, the president of the state board of
14 education and the director of the legislative education study
15 committee for appropriate distribution.

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