SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M. Sanchez

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATURE SUPPORT STATE ACTION FOR A
TEACHER CERTIFICATION PLAN IN NEW MEXICO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT FAIL TO COMPLY WITH
THE PLAN.

WHEREAS, qualified teachers should lead every classroom in
New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, as New Mexico imposes higher standards on its
students, higher standards must also be imposed on New Mexico's
teachers; and

WHEREAS, during the 2000-2001 school year, over two
thousand teachers, ten percent of the New Mexico teacher work
force, were not trained in the subjects they were teaching; and

WHEREAS, in high-poverty schools, twenty percent of the
teachers were not trained in the subjects they were teaching;

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1   and

2   WHEREAS, not providing certified teachers in New Mexico's

3   classrooms is denying students the education to which they are

4   entitled; and

5   WHEREAS, the United States congress, recognizing a

6   national need for teacher certification, passed the No Child

7   Left Behind Act of 2001, which requires, in participating

8   states, that all teachers teaching in core academic subjects in

9   each public elementary and secondary school should be highly

10   qualified no later than the end of the 2005-2006 school year;

11   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

12   STATE OF NEW MEXICO that during the 2003 legislative interim,

13   the superintendent of public instruction be requested to

14   conduct a study to determine how a statewide plan for teacher

15   certification in New Mexico's public schools and sanctions

16   against school districts for noncompliance could be developed

17   and that the superintendent appear before the legislative

18   education study committee to discuss the findings; and

19   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

20   transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction and the

21   governor.

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