

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 24

2 47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

3 INTRODUCED BY

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8 FOR THE WELFARE REFORM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CREATE A
12 COMMUNITY SCHOOL TASK FORCE TO STUDY WAYS TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY
13 USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS FOR BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL
14 PROGRAMS.

15
16 WHEREAS, the need for quality before- and after-school
17 programs continues to increase with the numbers of working
18 parents; and

19 WHEREAS, before- and after-school programs can increase
20 academic achievement while linking school-age children with the
21 community; and

22 WHEREAS, finding safe, affordable and stimulating before-
23 and after-school programs can pose a challenge for working
24 parents; and

25 WHEREAS, "latchkey" children who leave school with no

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1 organized program for care or learning are at increased risk
2 for danger; and

3 WHEREAS, national figures demonstrate that only one-third
4 of the children who need before- and after-school care receive
5 such care and that federal grants fill only one-fourth of
6 community school grant requests; and

7 WHEREAS, public school support increases when community
8 members participate in adult education programs, such as
9 English as a second language or citizenship classes, skills
10 enhancement, arts, crafts and other classes at local school
11 buildings; and

12 WHEREAS, taxpayers pay for public school buildings even
13 when they are not in use and therefore benefit from efficient
14 increases in use of school buildings; and

15 WHEREAS, insurance coverage for community use of public
16 school buildings is becoming more accessible; and

17 WHEREAS, several community coalitions and departments
18 within state government have considered ways to enhance use of
19 public schools for community initiatives, but the groups lack a
20 common focus;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
23 requested to create a community school task force to review the
24 recommendations of the several studies and reports already
25 completed on community schools and the inventory of child care

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1 programs now being completed by the children, youth and
2 families department, and that the task force use those findings
3 to recommend ways to enhance community use of public school
4 buildings for before- and after-school programs; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public
6 education be requested to appoint to the community school task
7 force the following:

8 A. members of community schools coalitions;

9 B. the compilers of the children, youth and
10 families department child care inventory;

11 C. one person who is involved in the twenty-first
12 century community learning centers program within the public
13 education department;

14 D. one person who is involved in the Albuquerque
15 public schools community schools programs; and

16 E. one person who is aware of the special problems
17 of rural before- and after-school programs; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force meet during the
19 2006 interim and report its findings and its recommendations
20 for legislation to the welfare reform oversight committee by
21 its November 2006 meeting; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretaries of public education and
24 children, youth and families and to school superintendents
25 statewide.