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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STUDY OF THE COMMUNICATION ACCESS TO  
DEMOCRATIC AND POLITICAL PROCESSES FOR DEAF AND  
HARD-OF-HEARING PERSONS.

WHEREAS, there are approximately twenty million persons,  
or eight and six-tenths percent of the total United States  
population three years or older, who are deaf and  
hard-of-hearing persons; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately one hundred ninety  
thousand persons in the state of New Mexico who are deaf and  
hard-of-hearing persons; and

WHEREAS, one percent of these persons use signed  
language; and

WHEREAS, the number of people with any degree of hearing  
loss continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons often do not  
vote or register to vote due to a lack of availability of  
equal communication access that results in their inability to  
decide intelligently on the issues; and

WHEREAS, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons are  
unintentionally left out of the democratic process because of  
barriers in communication; and

WHEREAS, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons crave to be  
empowered and to participate equally in the democratic

1 process and all other aspects of community life; and

2 WHEREAS, the general population needs education on deaf  
3 and hard-of-hearing communication access needs; and

4 WHEREAS, the voices of the deaf and the hard of hearing  
5 need to be heard in the democratic process;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commission for deaf and  
8 hard-of-hearing persons and the office of the secretary of  
9 state be requested to collaborate on a study to establish  
10 communication access to ensure full participation in the  
11 democratic process for all deaf and hard-of-hearing New  
12 Mexicans; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study determine how to  
14 provide more interpreters at political events and closed  
15 captioning on political television advertisements; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study result in  
17 recommendations to be reported no later than January 30, 2008  
18 to the appropriate legislative committee as determined by the  
19 New Mexico legislative council; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing  
22 persons and the secretary of state. \_\_\_\_\_

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