## A MEMORIAL

RECOMMENDING A STUDY OF COSTS OF A THREE-TIERED SALARY STRUCTURE FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDERS.

WHEREAS, instructional support providers, including nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, social workers and counselors, are essential to children's learning in New Mexico schools; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico schools must recruit and retain qualified instructional support staff to cope more adequately with the demands of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; and

WHEREAS, most of the instructional support providers, including physical therapists, occupational therapists, audiologists, diagnosticians, psychologists, social workers and speech and language pathologists, are included in the state public school funding formula; and

WHEREAS, nurses and counselors are not included in the public school funding formula; and

WHEREAS, instructional support providers generate revenue through the public school funding formula and medicaid billing; and

WHEREAS, teachers and other staff are on a three-tiered salary structure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of finance and administration, the legislative education study committee and the public education department be requested to study the cost of creating a three-tiered salary structure for all instructional support providers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during that cost-study process, those departments seek input from the various instructional support provider associations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost-study working committee be composed of appointees of each of the departments and report to the legislative education study committee and the legislative finance committee by October 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the legislative education study committee and the legislative finance committee and the secretaries of public education and finance and administration.\_\_\_\_\_\_ SM 67

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