

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 50

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE NEED FOR LANGUAGE SUPPORT  
PROFESSIONALS TO ENSURE THAT LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING PERSONS  
ARE REPRESENTED AND RECEIVE DUE PROCESS IN ALL ASPECTS OF STATE  
GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATING TO LEGAL AND MEDICAL  
SERVICES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a large population of limited  
English speakers; and

WHEREAS, all persons are constitutionally guaranteed due  
process protections; and

WHEREAS, interpreting services provided in person or via  
video or telephone may benefit New Mexico's limited English  
speakers; and

WHEREAS, written translation services may benefit New  
Mexico's limited English speakers, especially if they must deal

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1 with medical documents, prescriptions with instructions and  
2 judicial documents; and

3 WHEREAS, licensing medical and judicial interpreters and  
4 translators may benefit New Mexico's limited English speakers  
5 and create new jobs for New Mexicans; and

6 WHEREAS, setting standards for interpreters and  
7 translators may help ensure proper communication to limited  
8 English speakers; and

9 WHEREAS, requiring that all language services for legal,  
10 judicial or medical communication purposes be provided by  
11 certified interpreters and translators may help to ensure that  
12 language support services are provided at the proper level of  
13 proficiency;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health, the human  
16 services department, the children, youth and families  
17 department, the administrative office of the courts and the  
18 department of public safety be requested to study the need to  
19 license language support professionals to help ensure that  
20 limited English speaking persons are represented and receive  
21 due process in all aspects of state government, especially  
22 those relating to legal and medical services; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the study and  
24 recommendations be made to the appropriate interim legislative  
25 committee on or before December 1, 2010; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the department of health, the human services department, the children, youth and families department, the administrative office of the courts, the department of public safety and appropriate legislative committees.