

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 4

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 URGING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO TO  
12 EXERCISE GOOD JUDGMENT AND RESTRAINT DURING A TIME OF  
13 UNPRECEDENTED FISCAL CHALLENGE IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO BY  
14 LIMITING THE SALARIES OF TOP UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS.

15  
16 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has experienced an  
17 unprecedented and precipitous drop in tax revenues since fiscal  
18 year 2008 and, while there is hope, there is no evidence that  
19 the decline in revenues has bottomed out; and

20 WHEREAS, the decline in tax revenues has forced drastic  
21 cuts in state spending, cuts which have impacted public  
22 employees and the taxpayers they serve in the form of layoffs,  
23 furloughs and wage cuts for public employees, cuts to public  
24 school budgets and enrollment freezes in some state-sponsored  
25 health insurance plans; and

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1           WHEREAS, New Mexicans have been warned that additional  
2 sacrifice will be necessary, either in the form of increased  
3 taxes, reduced service or both, before state revenues return to  
4 previous levels; and

5           WHEREAS, in the midst of this collective sacrifice, more  
6 than a dozen top administrators at the university of New Mexico  
7 continue to enjoy six-figure salary and compensation packages  
8 that place them among the top five percent of wage earners and  
9 far out of line with public and private workers in New Mexico;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, these extraordinarily high compensation packages  
12 average more than six times the state's average wage and  
13 continue to be paid as tens of thousands of New Mexicans  
14 struggle to find work, and as still more toil in low-paying  
15 jobs for which they are overqualified; and

16           WHEREAS, the recipients of these high salaries benefited  
17 disproportionately from the 2003 personal income tax cuts that  
18 reduced the state's top income tax rate by forty percent and  
19 contributed to the present fiscal crisis now confronting the  
20 state; and

21           WHEREAS, these generous compensation packages for the  
22 growing ranks of top administrators at the university of New  
23 Mexico come at the expense of the school's core mission of  
24 classroom instruction, research and public service; and

25           WHEREAS, the appointed members of the board of regents of

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1 the university of New Mexico have a duty to the taxpayers of  
2 New Mexico to join with other public leaders in setting an  
3 appropriate tone and example during these challenging fiscal  
4 times by ensuring that tax dollars spent by the state's  
5 flagship educational institution are used in a way that does  
6 not shock the conscience;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the board of regents of the university  
9 of New Mexico be requested to immediately reduce both the  
10 number and the dollar amounts of the salary and compensation  
11 packages of top administrators at the university; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the board of regents of the university of New  
14 Mexico.