

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 29

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John C. Ryan

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO
12 COLLABORATE WITH ALL NEW MEXICO SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS AND THE
13 SECRETARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO CREATE A REPORT IDENTIFYING
14 STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE TEACHERS AND SCHOOL
15 DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE TO VISIT THE CHALLENGER LEARNING
16 CENTER NEW MEXICO AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES
17 OFFERED BY THAT EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.

18
19 WHEREAS, the Challenger learning center New Mexico has
20 received state funding, thereby establishing an important
21 partnership in creating this educational resource for the
22 students, teachers and communities throughout New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks near the bottom of this country
24 for elementary, middle and high school science and math
25 achievement; and

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1 WHEREAS, nationally, New Mexico schools earned a "D plus"
2 grade for chances for student success, placing the state at
3 fifty-first in the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, only twenty-seven percent of New Mexico eighth
5 grade students scored "proficient" or above in science in 2009;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, it is estimated that less than twenty percent of
8 New Mexico students are college-ready upon graduation; and

9 WHEREAS, the second session of the forty-eighth
10 legislature unanimously passed House Joint Memorial 32, which
11 called for "support of New Mexico Project 2012 as an innovative
12 and critical plan to improve mathematics and science education
13 in New Mexico public schools"; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the third largest per capita ratio
15 of engineers, mathematicians and scientists in the work force
16 of any state; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks second in the nation in
18 federally funded research and development per capita; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico has over one thousand high-tech
20 companies; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks sixth in the nation in the
22 number of scientists and engineers who hold doctoral degrees as
23 a percentage of the work force; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks sixth in the nation in science
25 and engineering graduate students; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico is the fifth largest state in land
2 area and the thirty-sixth in population, creating a population
3 density of sixteen people per square mile; and

4 WHEREAS, the Challenger learning center New Mexico is an
5 international, not-for-profit organization that was founded by
6 the families of the astronauts who lost their lives in the
7 Challenger space shuttle mission 51-L and is dedicated to the
8 invigoration of science, technology, engineering and math
9 education through inspiration, exploration and learning; and

10 WHEREAS, the mission of the Challenger learning center New
11 Mexico is carried out through an international network of more
12 than fifty centers throughout the United States, Canada, the
13 United Kingdom and South Korea; and

14 WHEREAS, the Challenger learning center New Mexico,
15 located on the Unser discovery campus in Los Ranchos de
16 Albuquerque, is one such center, and the only one in New
17 Mexico, working closely with the national aeronautics and space
18 administration to engage students in an exciting simulated
19 space mission that includes a realistic mission control and an
20 orbiting space station; and

21 WHEREAS, the Challenger learning center New Mexico is
22 dedicated to the educational spirit of the space shuttle
23 Challenger mission 51-L, offering students unique, hands-on
24 learning experiences; and

25 WHEREAS, all simulation programs offered at the Challenger

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1 learning center New Mexico are aligned with national and state
2 science, mathematics, language arts and social studies content
3 standards; and

4 WHEREAS, the public education department seeks to improve
5 student performance, close the achievement gap and prepare
6 students to succeed in a diverse and increasingly complex
7 world; and

8 WHEREAS, all public school districts in New Mexico are
9 committed to achieving academic excellence and to partnering
10 with families and communities to enhance student learning
11 opportunities; and

12 WHEREAS, the public education department and the public
13 school districts in New Mexico are in a position to achieve the
14 goal of excellence in education and pursue their stated
15 missions through partnerships with the Challenger learning
16 center New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, the Challenger learning center New Mexico offers
18 educational opportunities for teachers as well as students,
19 including diverse classroom programming and community outreach
20 events that are designed to excite students' natural curiosity
21 and desire to learn; and

22 WHEREAS, the Challenger learning center New Mexico
23 collaborates with institutions of higher education to provide
24 pre-service and in-service teacher workshops to prepare
25 teachers to implement robust math and science curricula; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Challenger learning center New Mexico
2 endeavors to provide quality distance-learning opportunities
3 for New Mexico's students via the gateway system and the New
4 Mexico computing applications center and related projects; and

5 WHEREAS, by transforming the way in which teachers and
6 students learn, the Challenger learning center New Mexico is
7 helping to create a new generation of scientists, technology
8 professionals, engineers and mathematicians;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
11 committee be requested to collaborate with the public education
12 department and the superintendents of all the public school
13 districts in New Mexico to encourage all schools to participate
14 in the Challenger learning center New Mexico's educational
15 programs; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that recognition be given to the
17 Challenger learning center New Mexico for its work in
18 transforming the tragic events of January 28, 1986 into an
19 ongoing tribute to the crew of the Challenger space shuttle;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
22 study committee prepare a report of steps that can be taken to
23 encourage teachers and school districts to participate in the
24 educational programs offered by the Challenger learning center
25 New Mexico; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report be provided to the
2 secretary of public education and the superintendents of each
3 public school district for implementation; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the
6 superintendent of each of the eighty-nine public school
7 districts in New Mexico and Julie Muffler, director of the
8 Challenger learning center New Mexico.

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