SENATE MEMORIAL 62

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING NEW MEXICANS TO ESTABLISH, RESPECT AND HONOR A

STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS.

WHEREAS, students have the right to a learning environment

in which discrimination in all forms is not tolerated by the

administration, school security or students, and in which

students are encouraged to participate in antidiscrimination

and cultural proficiency training that promotes principles of

equality, engages students in a culturally sensitive manner and

supports a culturally sensitive curriculum; and

WHEREAS, students have the right to extracurricular and

after-school programs and the means and support to access them

and to be able to request to form new clubs that fit their

interests because these programs and activities are important

mechanisms through which students prepare for life after high

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1 school, including improving their ability to access higher

2 education and otherwise develop their minds, talents and

3 perspectives; and

4 WHEREAS, students have the right to information, resources

5 and support to prepare them for life after high school and

6 should be encouraged to pursue higher education and not be

7 discouraged based on any discriminatory factors so that

8 students who choose to pursue college have access to college

9 readiness counselors to assist them in their transition into

10 higher education, and students who choose to enter the work

11 force should be prepared, through information, training and job

12 placement assistance, to make that transition; and

13 WHEREAS, students have the right to equitable school and

14 classroom environments, in which classroom sizes are small and

15 buildings and materials are in good condition; in which

16 creative approaches to teaching are encouraged; in which

17 respect and open communication among parents, teachers,

18 community organizations and students are encouraged; in which

19 building strong intergenerational relationships is valued; and

20 in which schools are fully funded in order to achieve these

21 goals; and

22 WHEREAS, students have the right to affordable and

23 nutritious food in the school environment because proper

24 nutrition is essential to the development of physical,

25 emotional and intellectual well-being; and

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1   WHEREAS, students have the right to bilingual education

2   and bilingual after-school programs, to integrated multilingual

3   classrooms and to speak any language while in school so that

4   they can become fluent speakers and thinkers in the languages

5   important to their development as fully rounded human beings

6   who are able to excel in their cultural, familial and economic

7   environments; and

8   WHEREAS, students have the right to a learning environment

9   that is free of cruel and unusual punishment, including the use

10   of excessive force by security; have the rights to freedom of

11   speech and of the press; and have the right to petition and

12   peacefully assemble with the purpose of improving the school,

13   classroom and learning environments; and

14   WHEREAS, students have the right to due process, to be

15   considered innocent until proven guilty and to be free of

16   searches of personal property by security, administration or

17   staff without reasonable cause and to have their parents

18   notified if such searches occur; and

19   WHEREAS, students have the right to schools that seek

20   alternatives to police presence, that are free of immigration

21   enforcement, that are free from the criminalization of youth,

22   that seek alternatives to suspension and expulsion policies and

23   in which students are given a clean slate each year; and

24   WHEREAS, students have the right to access violence- and

25   gang-prevention, peer-based mediation and intervention programs

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1   on campus; and

2   WHEREAS, students have the right and the opportunity to

3   organize themselves and be represented by their peers in

4   important school decision-making processes; and

5   WHEREAS, students have the right to self-representation in

6   district meetings, whether through a committee or a self-

7   started group, without being tokenized or dismissed due to

8   their youth, and they have the right to notification of

9   district and staff meeting times and places and to organize

10   collectively when issues arise that affect the entire student

11   body; and

12   WHEREAS, students have the right to be afforded space to

13   dialogue safely about aspects of their learning experience and

14   to understand how the school budget works and is allocated; and

15   WHEREAS, students have the right to access a copy of the

16   student bill of rights and to seek to amend this document when

17   necessary such that when concluded, those amendments will

18   improve the learning environment;

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

20   OF NEW MEXICO that New Mexicans be requested to establish,

21   respect and honor a student bill of rights; and

22   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education

23   study committee, in consultation with the public education

24   department, be requested to convene a task force of students

25   and student advocates to perform a yearly examination of the

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student bill of rights and make recommendations for legislation

that will help to realize the aspirations articulated in the

bill of rights; and

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

transmitted to the director of the legislative education study

committee and the secretary of public education.

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