

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF A BILINGUAL WORKFORCE.

3  
4 WHEREAS, in today's global economy, the ability to  
5 communicate is vital; and

6 WHEREAS, as more companies expand internationally, the  
7 ability to communicate in another language has become a  
8 significant advantage in the workforce; and

9 WHEREAS, fluency in a second language can help employees  
10 stand out among prospective employers and can open doors to  
11 opportunities that people without foreign language skills  
12 might miss; and

13 WHEREAS, having bilingual speakers in the workplace can  
14 afford business owners the opportunity to reach a wider  
15 customer and client base; and

16 WHEREAS, additionally, bilingual speakers can serve as  
17 interpreters for potential and existing clients; and

18 WHEREAS, the ability to speak both English and Spanish  
19 can provide financial rewards, such as bilingual pay  
20 differential, in the workforce; and

21 WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 12, Section 8 of the  
22 constitution of New Mexico, the legislature has been required  
23 to provide for the training of teachers so that they may  
24 become proficient in both the English and Spanish languages;  
25 and

1           WHEREAS, in 2013, seventy-three percent of Hispanics age  
2 five years and older spoke Spanish at home, according to  
3 United States census bureau statistics; and

4           WHEREAS, as of 2015, nearly forty-eight percent of the  
5 greater Albuquerque metropolitan area is of Hispanic origin;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, according to the United States census bureau,  
8 seventeen and five-tenths percent of the Albuquerque working-  
9 age population speaks both English and Spanish, which places  
10 Albuquerque in the top twenty-five of all United States  
11 bilingual metropolitan areas; and

12           WHEREAS, New Mexico is uniquely positioned to supply  
13 employees to the workforce who speak Spanish as well as  
14 English; and

15           WHEREAS, central New Mexico community college is in the  
16 forefront of this effort with a major bilingual education  
17 initiative to promote Spanish as a workforce development  
18 program;

19           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the benefits  
21 of a bilingual workforce be recognized; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the continued growth and  
23 development of a bilingual workforce be supported; and

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
25 transmitted to the secretary of economic development, the

1 secretary of workforce solutions, the secretary of tourism,  
2 the secretary of public education, the secretary of higher  
3 education and the president of central New Mexico community  
4 college.

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