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HOUSE MEMORIAL 49

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio "Moe" Maestas

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE OR OTHER  
APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO HOLD A HEARING ON MEDIA  
LITERACY AND BEST PRACTICES AND TO REQUEST THE PUBLIC EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DEVELOP BEST PRACTICES  
AND TO OFFER MEDIA LITERACY.

WHEREAS, media literacy is the ability to access, analyze,  
evaluate, develop, produce and interpret media, and it  
encompasses the foundational skills that lead to digital  
citizenship; and

WHEREAS, digital citizenship requires a diverse set of  
skills related to current technology and social media use and  
includes the norms of appropriate, responsible and healthy  
behavior; and

WHEREAS, digital citizenship and media-literacy education

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1 provide digital skills essential for success in the twenty-  
2 first century; and

3 WHEREAS, media and technology have become pervasive in all  
4 areas of life; and

5 WHEREAS, in classrooms, young people must learn how to  
6 safely, ethically, responsibly and effectively use media and  
7 technology resources; and

8 WHEREAS, young people have never had as much access to the  
9 internet, media and mobile technologies at home and in school  
10 as they do today; and

11 WHEREAS, schools can play a critical role by educating,  
12 empowering and engaging children with the best practices for  
13 media and technology use; and

14 WHEREAS, while media and technology have great promise for  
15 learning, young people need support and education to learn how  
16 to make sound judgments when navigating the digital world; and

17 WHEREAS, school administrators and educators are now faced  
18 with new, and at times overwhelming, challenges, such as those  
19 related to privacy, digital footprints, cyberbullying and  
20 sexting; and

21 WHEREAS, best practices include instruction that provides  
22 guidance about thoughtful, safe and strategic uses of online  
23 and other media resources and how to apply critical-thinking  
24 skills when using and producing media in any form; and

25 WHEREAS, students, parents or guardians, teachers,

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1 librarians, administrators, community representatives and other  
2 interested parties could provide valuable input at the hearing;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the public education department and local school  
5 districts are uniquely situated to identify best practices and  
6 recommendations for instruction in media literacy, digital  
7 citizenship and internet safety;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative  
10 education study committee or other appropriate interim  
11 committee be requested to hold a hearing during the interim to  
12 discuss safe media and technology use, with the goal of  
13 establishing media literacy and digital citizenship as part of  
14 the state's education goals and essential academic learning  
15 requirements; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education  
17 department and school districts be requested to offer media  
18 literacy instruction and to develop best practices; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the chair of the legislative education study  
21 committee, the secretary of public education and the chair of  
22 the legislative finance committee.