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SENATE MEMORIAL 39

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

William P. Soules

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST THE NEW MEXICO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND THE LIBRARIES TRANSFORM NEW MEXICO STEERING COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE A JOINT COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND SCHOOL LIBRARIANS IN STATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE RESOURCES AND NEEDS FOR THE OPERATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

WHEREAS, numerous studies show that effective school libraries with highly qualified teacher librarians improve student academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, many teacher librarian positions across New Mexico are left vacant or have been eliminated; and

WHEREAS, many schools, especially charter schools, do not have functioning libraries; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 New Mexico libraries assessment

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1 conducted by the New Mexico library foundation indicated a
2 shortage of school libraries in the state; and

3 WHEREAS, digital media literacy, a component of the school
4 library curriculum, is an urgently needed skill for all
5 students; and

6 WHEREAS, public school teacher librarians have been
7 providing digital media literacy from the beginning of the
8 internet era; and

9 WHEREAS, the last study on the impact of school libraries
10 on student academic achievement in New Mexico was done in 2002;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
12 OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be requested
13 to assist the New Mexico library association and the libraries
14 transform New Mexico steering committee to undertake a joint
15 comprehensive assessment of school libraries and school
16 librarians in state public schools and public charter schools
17 to determine resources and needs for the operation of school
18 libraries; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
20 department be requested to present its findings from and
21 recommendations in response to the comprehensive assessment to
22 the legislative education study committee by October 1, 2018;
23 and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the president

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1 of the New Mexico library association, the chair of the
2 libraries transform New Mexico steering committee and the chair
3 of the legislative education study committee.

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