

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT REFORM OF NEW MEXICO'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM  
3 INCLUDE LEARNING ABOUT ACEQUIAS AND LAND GRANTS AS PART OF A  
4 MULTICULTURAL AND EQUITABLE EDUCATION FOR DIVERSE STUDENT  
5 POPULATIONS IN NEW MEXICO.

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7 WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to cultures and communities  
8 with diverse student populations that are deserving of an  
9 equitable, sufficient and meaningful education; and

10 WHEREAS, because of limited resources, schools are not  
11 able to integrate learning about cultural resources and  
12 assets in their own communities; and

13 WHEREAS, decades of inadequate resources for schools  
14 have resulted in racial, economic and educational disparities  
15 that rank among the worst in the country; and

16 WHEREAS, in a landmark decision, a court ruled in the  
17 *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* case that the state  
18 must take immediate steps to support students; and

19 WHEREAS, the decision also highlighted the need for  
20 multicultural and multilingual learning opportunities that  
21 respond to cultures, languages and heritages of diverse  
22 student populations; and

23 WHEREAS, acequias and land grants are vital parts of New  
24 Mexico's culture, history and social fabric and continue to  
25 be relevant in community development in rural communities

1 throughout the state; and

2 WHEREAS, culturally relevant education in New Mexico  
3 should include the study of the historical development of  
4 acequia and land grant communities and the contemporary  
5 issues and challenges they face; and

6 WHEREAS, research shows that a multicultural and  
7 multilingual approach to education allows students to  
8 maintain their language and cultural identity, which  
9 contributes to their well-being and performance in school;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that education  
12 about acequias and land grants be part of a broader  
13 transformation of education in New Mexico to ensure  
14 sufficient and equitable education for diverse student  
15 populations; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education  
17 department be requested to develop methods to integrate  
18 learning about acequias and land grants into the curriculum  
19 and that the higher education department be requested to  
20 train and develop educators for multicultural curriculum  
21 development; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the center for the education  
23 and study of diverse populations and the Ben Lujan leadership  
24 and public policy institute at New Mexico highlands  
25 university be requested to convene educators, community

1 leaders and stakeholders to develop and provide  
2 recommendations to the public education department and higher  
3 education department on how to reshape New Mexico's  
4 educational system to include a culturally relevant  
5 curriculum that includes acequias and land grants; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico acequia  
7 association, acequia commission, land grant council and New  
8 Mexico land grant consejo be requested to develop and provide  
9 recommendations to the public education department and higher  
10 education department for integration of acequias and land  
11 grants into multicultural curriculum development; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the  
14 secretary of higher education, the president of New Mexico  
15 highlands university, the chair of the acequia commission,  
16 the executive director of the New Mexico acequia association,  
17 the chair of the land grant council and the president of the  
18 New Mexico land grant consejo. \_\_\_\_\_

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