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HOUSE MEMORIAL 19

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

INTRODUCED BY

Ambrose Castellano

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN PROVIDING INTERNET ACCESS TO TEACHERS STATEWIDE.

WHEREAS, internet access is critical to quality education; and

WHEREAS, during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, a lack of internet access has hampered the ability of many school teachers statewide; and

WHEREAS, many teachers contend with unreliable internet connectivity that interferes with the teachers' ability to provide online lessons to students; and

WHEREAS, wireless networking hotspots may not be available to teachers who provide online lessons to students; and

WHEREAS, internet access fees are a financial hardship for many teachers; and

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1           WHEREAS, assistance with the payment of internet fees  
2 during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic would be  
3 beneficial to teachers;

4           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public  
6 education department be requested to assist school districts in  
7 providing internet access to teachers statewide; and

8           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the public education  
9 department receives additional federal economic stimulus funds  
10 as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019, the department be  
11 requested to earmark a portion of those funds to pay for  
12 internet access for school teachers statewide; and

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if additional federal  
14 economic stimulus funds are received as a result of the  
15 coronavirus disease 2019, school districts be requested to  
16 provide to the public education department each month the  
17 number of teachers in the school district in need of assistance  
18 to pay for internet access costs and receipts from each teacher  
19 for actual expenses paid out of pocket for internet services;  
20 and

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funds available pursuant to  
22 these provisions would only apply to teachers who had not been  
23 provided a Wi-Fi hotspot by the school district and had not  
24 returned to in-person teaching; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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transmitted to the secretary of public education.

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