

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT RESOLUTION

11 REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONSENT TO THE
12 AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PROVIDE AN
13 ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION FROM THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND, CREATED
14 FROM LAND GRANT REVENUES, FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR
15 CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

16
17 WHEREAS, the United States congress set aside public lands
18 to support the common schools in Section 15 of the Organic Act
19 Establishing the Territory of New Mexico (Act of September 9,
20 1850, 9 Statutes at Large 446, Chapter 49, as amended);
21 Sections 1 and 4 of the Ferguson Act (Act of June 21, 1898, 30
22 Statutes at Large 484, Chapter 489); and by Sections 6, 7 and
23 12 of the Enabling Act for New Mexico (Act of June 20, 1910, 36
24 Statutes at Large 557, Chapter 310, as amended); and

25 WHEREAS, those lands are held in trust, and the revenue

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1 derived from investment of the permanent school fund has
2 provided support for public schools around the state for over
3 one hundred ten years; and

4 WHEREAS, now, in the twenty-first century, educational and
5 social science research has shown how crucial it is to prepare
6 young children to enter elementary school understanding early
7 concepts of reading, language and mathematics and to have had
8 exposure to art, music, earth science and simple history; and

9 WHEREAS, in addition to pre-academic skills, early
10 childhood education develops social and emotional skills,
11 including empathy and self-discipline, that provide
12 preschoolers with the solid foundation of knowledge and skills
13 they need to succeed when they are old enough to go to school;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in light of these research findings, New Mexico
16 has made a commitment to early childhood education by creating
17 a cabinet-level executive department dedicated to children from
18 infancy to age five, and the state's voters passed a
19 constitutional amendment to increase the permanent school fund
20 distribution by one and one-fourth percent, which will be
21 shared between public schools at forty percent of the
22 additional distribution for enhanced instruction for students
23 at risk of failure and teacher compensation and sixty percent
24 that will be expended for early childhood education; and

25 WHEREAS, the constitutional amendment safeguards the

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1 permanent school fund by ensuring that an additional
2 distribution will not be made if the five-year average fund
3 value falls below seventeen billion dollars (\$17,000,000,000);

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the congress of the United States be
6 respectfully petitioned to consent to the amendment of the
7 constitution of New Mexico to allow the use of an additional
8 distribution from the permanent school fund to provide funding
9 for early childhood education, as set forth with particularity
10 in Constitutional Amendment 1 approved by the voters in the
11 2022 general election; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congress be respectfully
13 petitioned to amend the Enabling Act for New Mexico to provide
14 for the additional distribution for the purposes specified; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this joint
16 resolution be sent to the president of the United States
17 senate, the speaker of the United States house of
18 representatives and the New Mexico congressional delegation.