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A MEMORIAL

HONORING NEW MEXICO'S BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION ACT
AND REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM 2023 AS "THE YEAR OF
BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION".

WHEREAS, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the
Bilingual Multicultural Education Act, the senate
acknowledges that bilingualism and multilingualism have
always been a reality in this land that is now called New
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, reflecting on the linguistic and cultural gifts
of the elders both past and present, the senate celebrates
the diverse languages represented among the nineteen Pueblos
and the Dine, Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Ute Nations; and

WHEREAS, the senate recognizes that the Spanish language
of New Mexico has been sustained for almost half a millennium
in this region and that the state continues to welcome and be
further enriched by other languages; and

WHEREAS, the fortitude and resiliency of the bilingual
multicultural educators, students, parents, families and
communities continue to contribute to the multilingual and
multicultural legacy of the state; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of communities, educators and
political leaders who honor and continue the advocacy for
teaching the heritage languages of New Mexico remain both a

1 goal and a daily struggle; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico's bilingual education professors and
3 prominent educators continue to provide educational supports
4 and structures that ensure a legacy for future generations
5 and continue to advocate for bilingual multicultural
6 education infrastructures; and

7 WHEREAS, there are a number of professional and
8 educational organizations that the Bilingual Multicultural
9 Education Act helped propel, including the New Mexico
10 association for bilingual education, the center for the
11 education and study of diverse populations, dual language
12 education of New Mexico and the coalition for the majority;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the statutory bilingual multicultural education
15 advisory council advises the public education department
16 about goals for equitable access to high-quality education on
17 behalf of students and their families without compromising
18 students' linguistic and cultural heritage; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico recognizes teachers of Native
20 American languages as professionals equal to teachers of
21 English and other languages; and

22 WHEREAS, the Spanish proficiency endorsement exam for
23 Spanish bilingual teachers is inclusive of and values the
24 assets of New Mexico's Spanish vernacular; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico adopted the state seal of

1 bilingualism-biliteracy in 2014; and

2 WHEREAS, the implementation of the federal standard
3 process for the identification of home languages, through the
4 home language survey, supports emergent bilingual students;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, fifty years after the Bilingual Multicultural
7 Education Act, bilingual multicultural education programs
8 continue to be supported through the funding formula to
9 public schools, and bilingual multicultural educators
10 continue to infuse and advocate for a cultural and linguistic
11 lens in the teacher evaluation process;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department and
14 the director of the language and culture division be
15 requested to provide a report to the legislature on how the
16 requirements of the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act are
17 or are not being fulfilled; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
19 department and school districts ensure that curricula,
20 instruction, assessments and instructional materials be
21 developed and selected through the lens of the bilingual
22 multicultural needs of New Mexico's population; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that bilingual multicultural
24 education and Indigenous language experts be consulted in the
25 areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment, teacher

1 preparation, teacher evaluation, professional development and
2 licensure; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funds be made available to
4 revise and update the current Spanish proficiency endorsement
5 exam; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for professional
7 development, time and resources be allocated for educators to
8 develop a scope and sequence for bilingual multicultural
9 education programs appropriate for the languages being
10 taught; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that institutions of higher
12 education be encouraged to create degree programs with
13 appropriate credentialed professors in bilingual
14 multicultural elementary education to increase the number of
15 bilingual teachers; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all school administrators,
17 including superintendents, receive ongoing in-depth training
18 on the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act and how to
19 effectively implement the act's rules at the local level; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that current and emergent
21 bilingual students with exceptionalities be recognized as
22 vibrant participants and contributors to bilingual
23 multicultural education programs; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that students identified in the
25 *Martinez/Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* ruling be represented

1 with greater equity and consistency as eligible for gifted
2 education programs and bilingual multicultural programs; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
4 department be requested to provide additional remuneration to
5 kindergarten through twelfth grade bilingual educators,
6 administrators and professors who use their bilingualism to
7 teach languages, prepare bilingual teachers, evaluate
8 teachers and classroom instruction, produce language
9 materials, develop tools for assessment and certify language
10 teachers; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that resources, including
12 research, specific to bilingual multicultural education that
13 are inclusive of local and regional perspectives be used in
14 teacher preparation and educational leadership programs; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
16 department be requested to provide resources and expertise to
17 assist Native American language teachers, coordinators and
18 tribes in New Mexico to develop appropriate tools for
19 assessing Native language learning and evaluation programs;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that students who graduate with
22 the state seal of bilingualism-biliteracy be granted college
23 credit in a language other than English throughout all
24 institutions of higher education, including Indigenous
25 students, regardless of whether those students' languages are

1 written or oral; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
3 department be requested to review the need for scholarships
4 for students who attend New Mexico universities and colleges
5 to pursue bilingual multicultural education teaching degrees
6 or bilingual multicultural education terminal degrees; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
8 department be requested to adopt and use culturally relevant
9 materials and textbooks in multiple languages for all
10 students in bilingual multicultural education and the school
11 libraries that serve these programs; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
13 department be requested to provide resources to develop local
14 instructional materials appropriate for both oral-based
15 languages and those providing Native literacy; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that multiculturalism be
17 encouraged throughout kindergarten through twelfth grade
18 education programs; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the language and culture
20 division of the public education department be requested to
21 create an instructional guidance document to support the
22 effective implementation of bilingual multicultural education
23 that moves beyond compliance and includes specific guidance
24 from the bilingual multicultural education advisory council
25 for oral-based languages as well as effective development in

1 two languages; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
3 department, in consultation with the bilingual multicultural
4 education advisory council, be requested to convene a task
5 force and generate a report to address the *New Mexico*
6 *Legislative Finance Committee Program Evaluation:*
7 *Bilingual and Multicultural Education Programs Report*
8 *Findings and Recommendations* and any community concerns by
9 September 1, 2023; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
11 proclaim 2023 as "The Year of Bilingual Multicultural
12 Education"; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
14 department be requested to fully comply, address and fund the
15 linguistic rights of New Mexico's bilingual multicultural
16 students as provided for in Article 12, Section 8 of the
17 constitution of New Mexico, the court rulings of *Serna v.*
18 *Portales*, *Lau v. Nichols*, *Castañeda v. Pickard* and
19 *Martinez/Yazzie v. State of New Mexico*, the Bilingual
20 Multicultural Education Act and the federal Native American
21 Languages Act; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of public education
24 and the secretary of higher education. _____