

HOUSE MEMORIAL 54

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

INTRODUCED BY

Rod Montoya and Luis M. Terrazas and Tanya Mirabal Moya and
Martin R. Zamora and John Block

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HIGHER
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO RESTRICT THE TERM "LATINX" AND SIMILAR
TERMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS AS AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING TERM IN REFERENCE TO PEOPLE
OF HISPANIC DESCENT.

WHEREAS, the term "Latinx" or "LatinX" has emerged as a
pan-ethnic term for the words "Latino/Latina" and "Hispanic";
and

WHEREAS, the Spanish language has existed for more than
one thousand five hundred years and traditionally consists of
grammar using masculine and feminine constructs; and

WHEREAS, the term "Latinx" or "LatinX" is inappropriate
within the masculine and feminine constructs of the Spanish
language, and its use therefore disrespects and disregards the

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1 historical and cultural context of the Spanish language; and

2 WHEREAS, approximately only three percent of Hispanics use
3 the term; and

4 WHEREAS, the term "Hispanic" is an appropriate
5 "gender-neutral" term;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public
8 education department and the higher education department be
9 requested to restrict the term "Latinx" or "LatinX" in public
10 schools and post-secondary educational institutions as an
11 all-encompassing term in reference to people of Hispanic
12 descent; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
14 department be requested to prohibit the use or purchase of any
15 instructional materials for use within a public school
16 classroom using the term "Latinx" or "LatinX" as an
17 all-encompassing term in reference to people of Hispanic
18 descent; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature commit to
20 preserving the Spanish language in its natural and unaltered
21 form; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the secretary
24 of higher education, the secretary of cultural affairs, the
25 presidents of all post-secondary educational institutions in

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1 the state, the superintendents of all public school districts,
2 the head administrators of all charter schools, the presidents
3 of all local school boards and governing councils in the state
4 and the chair of the legislative education study committee.

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