

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,  
2000**

INTRODUCED BY  
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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO RECOGNIZE AMERICAN  
SIGN LANGUAGE FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE CREDITS IN NEW MEXICO  
PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, American sign language is recognized in forty-  
five states as a standard, independent language with its own  
grammar, syntax, vocabulary and cultural heritage, and  
American sign language is widely used by deaf, hard-of-  
hearing and hearing persons in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the deaf community is a distinct group that has  
a separate identity based on its history, language and  
culture; and

WHEREAS, the general hearing population's lack of  
knowledge of the language and culture of deaf people hampers  
communications between the two groups, which the widespread  
use of American sign language could eliminate; and

