

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 1

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Max Coll

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
LICENSING SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF  
HEARING IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, deafness is of low incidence, and there is a  
considerable lack of knowledge and understanding regarding  
deafness; and

WHEREAS, approximately seventy-five percent of persons who  
perform interpreting for the deaf and hard of hearing in New  
Mexico are not certified by any certifying body; and

WHEREAS, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of  
1990 (ADA) does not require that persons performing sign  
language interpreting be certified but beckons state  
governments to take measures to define quality interpreting

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1 standards in their individual jurisdictions; and

2 WHEREAS, the current definition in the ADA of "qualified"  
3 is so broad as to include sign interpreters who are not able to  
4 provide adequate services to the deaf and hard-of-hearing  
5 citizens of New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, there are currently no legal standards for  
7 regulating sign interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing  
8 in New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, licensure of sign interpreters for the deaf and  
10 hard of hearing will ensure protection of New Mexico residents  
11 from individuals who misrepresent their ability to provide  
12 adequate interpretation;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a study be conducted of the  
15 feasibility of developing standards for licensure of sign  
16 language interpreters in the state of New Mexico by the New  
17 Mexico school for the deaf and the commission for deaf and  
18 hard-of-hearing persons and that the results of this study and  
19 proposed legislation, if any, be presented to the first session  
20 of the forty-sixth legislature; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the board of regents of the New Mexico school  
23 for the deaf and to the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing  
24 persons.

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