

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 38

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Nick L. Salazar

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR ENCOURAGE STATE EMPLOYEES TO MENTOR AT-RISK CHILDREN AND PARTICIPATE IN OTHER EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BY PROVIDING ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT LEAVE.

WHEREAS, many jobs in state government require incumbents to hold baccalaureate or higher degrees, and those employees could be great educational resources and role models for children; and

WHEREAS, providing at-risk and other children more positive interactions with adults, particularly those adults who have achieved through education, will expand the educational environment in New Mexico and offer those children the guidance needed to become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, if the influence of adult educational mentors can

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1 positively affect the lives of at-risk children, New Mexico  
2 will benefit not only in reduced adult incarceration rates but  
3 in the creation of productive, tax-paying citizens; and

4 WHEREAS, current economic conditions make it difficult to  
5 add money to the public school budget for educational  
6 enhancements like student mentoring; and

7 WHEREAS, other states, such as Connecticut and Florida,  
8 have implemented state initiatives to encourage state employees  
9 to serve as educational mentors for children by providing paid  
10 time off from work; and

11 WHEREAS, the state work force is not only an untapped  
12 resource for educational enhancement, but a good way to offer  
13 additional services to children with very little fiscal impact;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be encouraged to initiate  
16 an educational enhancement leave policy that allows state  
17 employees administrative leave for educational mentoring  
18 activities; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public  
20 education and local school boards be encouraged to assist in  
21 the development and implementation of an educational  
22 enhancement program in the public schools that uses state  
23 employees as educational mentors; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
25 transmitted to the office of the governor and the state board

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