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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 10, 2006 AS "ENLACE DAY".

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is committed to providing access to quality education for all New Mexico students from pre-kindergarten to higher education; and

WHEREAS, Latinos and Hispanics comprise fifty-three percent of New Mexico's K-12 student population and nearly fifty percent of the student body at New Mexico colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, a high Latino and Hispanic student high school dropout rate of forty-four percent and an average undergraduate non-completion rate of fifty percent results in an achievement gap and considerable economic and social costs to the state; and

WHEREAS, over the past four years, Engaging Latino Communities for Education (ENLACE) New Mexico has established community partnerships, including institutions in the education pathway in law and medicine; and

WHEREAS, ENLACE New Mexico believes in inclusivity; that a Latino-focused educational initiative will create a world-class educational system for all students; and

WHEREAS, remaining responsive and responsible to students, parents and communities is imperative to students' educational success; and

1 WHEREAS, the work of ENLACE recognizes, validates and
2 embraces the core cultural values of its stakeholders, the
3 strength of familia, the bonds of comunidad, and the
4 mutuality of respeto; and

5 WHEREAS, bottom-up change is needed in this state with
6 students, parents and communities themselves defining the
7 programmatic and policy issues necessary to effect systemic
8 change; and

9 WHEREAS, elected officials throughout the state have
10 united in a bipartisan effort to support the continuation and
11 expansion of the ENLACE New Mexico mission;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 10, 2006 be recognized as
14 "ENLACE Day"; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to local chapters of ENLACE statewide. _____

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