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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 5**  
**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006**

**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Cynthia Nava**

**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**REQUESTING THAT TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS DETERMINE THE**  
**FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING NEW CRITERIA FOR PLACING STUDENT**  
**TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS.**

**WHEREAS, teacher quality has been demonstrated to be the**  
**most significant school-related factor in improving student**  
**achievement; and**

**WHEREAS, the student teaching field experience, in which**  
**a prospective teacher candidate gains practical experience**  
**under the supervision of a licensed teacher and a university**  
**professor, is an essential component of learning to teach and**  
**one that research has shown to be critical to the development**  
**of preservice teachers' pedagogical skills; and**

**WHEREAS, to be licensed to teach in New Mexico, state law**  
**requires all candidates to successfully complete a post-**

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1 secondary educational program that includes a mandatory  
2 student teaching component; and

3 WHEREAS, currently, teacher preparation programs may  
4 place a student teacher with any licensed teacher in good  
5 standing with at least three years of experience in a school  
6 that is accredited by the public education department; and

7 WHEREAS, student teachers require exemplary teachers to  
8 model the skills and strategies they will need to become  
9 effective, highly qualified teachers; and

10 WHEREAS, the legislature, in establishing a three-tiered  
11 licensure system, has created a system for identifying a  
12 teacher's level of mastery; and

13 WHEREAS, the legislature, in enacting the Assessment and  
14 Accountability Act, has established systems for identifying  
15 schools, classrooms and programs where instruction  
16 successfully addresses required content standards with  
17 benchmarks and performance standards;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the deans of teacher preparation  
20 programs at New Mexico post-secondary educational institutions  
21 be requested to determine the feasibility of establishing  
22 criteria for placing student teachers with classroom teachers  
23 holding a level three-A license; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deans be requested to  
25 report the findings and recommendations of their study to the

. 159650. 1

1 legislative education study committee by October 2006; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study  
4 committee and the deans of the teacher preparation programs  
5 for appropriate distribution.

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