

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 63

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT NEW MEXICO BE A LEADER IN PREPARING YOUNG RESEARCHERS TO ANSWER THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico faces a serious and intensifying challenge to its future competitiveness and standard of living as fewer of its students select careers in science, engineering and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the standard of living of New Mexicans depends, to a large degree, on the quality of jobs that they are able to hold; and

WHEREAS, New Mexicans find themselves in competition for jobs, not just with their immediate neighbors, but with individuals around the world; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is competing with countries that

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1 expend proportionately more money per student to build their
2 science and engineering communities; and

3 WHEREAS, research projects allow students to apply their
4 knowledge and skills directly, a technique that has been shown
5 to improve their understanding of mathematical, scientific and
6 engineering concepts; and

7 WHEREAS, students are New Mexico's finest resource;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state be a leader in preparing
10 young researchers; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
12 declare a "New Mexico Young Researchers Awareness Day"; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
14 department be requested to require that all students in
15 secondary schools conduct a scientific research project for
16 presentation or review prior to graduation; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that expositions of student science
18 projects no longer be identified as "science fairs" but as
19 "student science and engineering research challenges"; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every post-secondary
21 educational institution establish a review process for
22 secondary-school student research projects and that the results
23 be considered when admitting students to those institutions;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all new teachers of science

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1 and mathematics be involved in evaluating student research
2 projects that are displayed in public; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
4 department and the higher education department collaborate to
5 provide kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers with the
6 opportunity to conduct their own research for their own
7 professional growth; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
9 department and the higher education department work with the
10 international science and engineering fair; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public education and
12 marketing program be established to help educate residents
13 about how work force education issues will affect New Mexicans
14 and their standard of living for generations to come; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the public education department, the higher
17 education department and the governor.