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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Nathan P. Cote

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE OFFICE OF
EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY TO EXAMINE ISSUES RELATED TO TURNOVER
AND EMERGENCIES RESULTING FROM PREDICTED SHORTAGES OF SCHOOL
COUNSELORS, NURSES AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT
PERSONNEL IN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, school counselors, nurses and other professional
instructional support personnel are essential to children's
learning in New Mexico schools; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico schools must recruit and retain
qualified school counselors, nurses and other professional
instructional support personnel to cope more adequately with
the demands of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;
and

WHEREAS, school counselors play a critical role in

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1 helping students focus on academic, personal, social and career
2 development, particularly through the next-step planning
3 process, so that students may achieve success in school and be
4 prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of
5 society; and

6 WHEREAS, nationally, forty-six percent of the nursing
7 workforce is over fifty years of age; and

8 WHEREAS, the federal health resources and services
9 administration predicts that New Mexico will be able to meet
10 only sixty-four percent of the state's demand for nurses in all
11 capacities by 2020; and

12 WHEREAS, school counselors, nurses and other professional
13 instructional support personnel in New Mexico school districts
14 currently average more than fourteen years of experience; and

15 WHEREAS, school districts have a difficult time attracting
16 and retaining qualified school counselors, nurses and other
17 professional instructional support personnel due to competition
18 for their services from the private sector; and

19 WHEREAS, many school counselors, nurses and other
20 professional instructional support personnel can choose
21 employment in a variety of settings other than public schools,
22 such as hospitals, pediatric clinics, rehabilitation
23 facilities, mental health centers and nursing homes;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department and

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1 the office of education accountability be requested to examine
2 issues related to turnover and emergencies resulting from
3 predicted shortages of school counselors, nurses and other
4 professional instructional support personnel in public school
5 districts and charter schools; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department and the office
7 report their findings and recommendations, if any, to the
8 legislative education study committee prior to the first
9 session of the forty-ninth legislature; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the director
12 of the office of education accountability and the secretary of
13 finance and administration.

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