HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 43

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE DYSLEXIA
IN THE STATE DEFINITION OF DISABILITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF
INTERPRETING THE FEDERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
EDUCATION ACT, TO IDENTIFY EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS FOR STUDENTS
WITH DYSLEXIA AND TO ESTABLISH CERTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR
SPECIALISTS WHO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA.

WHEREAS, the federal Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act recognizes that persons with dyslexia shall be
provided with educational services to address their disability;
and

WHEREAS, the Public School Code has not defined dyslexia
or instituted educational diagnostic evaluations and has not
recommended educational services to address dyslexia; and

WHEREAS, scientists and leaders from the national

.176122.1

1   institute of child health and human development, the education

2   council, the academic language therapy association and the

3   international dyslexia association have identified the skills

4   needed by teachers and therapists, have developed certification

5   requirements for specialists in the field and have accredited

6   professional training programs that prepare persons with

7   dyslexia;

8   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

9   STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of public education be

10   requested to adopt a specific definition of dyslexia, to

11   identify dyslexia as a specific disability for purposes of New

12   Mexico's interpretation of the federal Individuals with

13   Disabilities Education Act and to establish effective

14   interventions and specialized public school education programs

15   for students that address this specific language disability;

16   and

17   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public

18   education begin to establish certification criteria for

19   specialists to carry out public school education programs to

20   assist students with dyslexia; and

21   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public

22   education report findings and make recommendations to the

23   legislative education study committee by August 2009; and

24   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

25   transmitted to the director of the legislative education study

.176122.1

- 2 -

committee, the secretary of public education and
the superintendents of all public school districts.

.176122.1