

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 45

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Ben Lujan

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9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE ECONOMIC  
12 DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT, THE PUBLIC  
13 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES  
14 DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZE THE IMPACT AND POTENTIAL OF KESHET DANCE  
15 COMPANY AND COLLABORATE WITH THE ORGANIZATION TO SUPPORT THE  
16 GROWTH AND INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF KESHET DANCE COMPANY.

17  
18 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company has been honored by First  
19 Lady Michelle Obama and the president's committee on the arts  
20 and humanities as a recipient of the prestigious 2009 "Coming  
21 Up Taller Award"; and

22 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company provides educational  
23 services to children, youth and families throughout New Mexico;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company provides socialization and

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1 esteem-building skills through dance for homeless children and  
2 youth in partnership with the Title I homeless project; and

3 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company teaches math, literacy and  
4 conflict resolution skills through dance within the state's  
5 youth diagnostic and development center; and

6 WHEREAS, children who participate in the program increase  
7 math and literacy test scores over fifty percent based on pre-  
8 and post-test scores and decrease conflicts by over twenty  
9 percent compared to nonparticipating students; and

10 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company operates gender-specific  
11 programs for female inmates at the youth diagnostic and  
12 development center utilizing dance to instill a positive,  
13 healthy attitude in females who have previously been victims of  
14 physical and sexual abuse; and

15 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company operates a pre- and post-  
16 release program for incarcerated juveniles who are leaving the  
17 youth diagnostic and development center, which provides ongoing  
18 mentorship and participation throughout the parole and  
19 reintegration process and which has tracked a zero percent  
20 recidivism rate to date for participating juveniles; and

21 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company provides mentorship and  
22 therapeutic programs through dance for youth and adults with  
23 physical and developmental disabilities; and

24 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company employs a full-time  
25 company of professional dance artists and educators, and the

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1 company tours statewide, nationally and internationally,  
2 drawing audiences and artists from throughout the nation and  
3 the world to New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, the president's committee on the arts and  
5 humanities has formally recognized the transformative impact  
6 that Keshet dance company has on communities in New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company has become a cultural  
8 institution serving all of New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislature is committed to improving the  
10 lives of children, youth and families; and

11 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company is well-respected both  
12 locally and nationally; and

13 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company has recently been designated  
14 the resident dance company of the KiMo theater in Albuquerque;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company and the KiMo theater have  
17 entered into an operating agreement to oversee management,  
18 operations and expansion of the KiMo theater; and

19 WHEREAS, the KiMo theater and Keshet dance company  
20 partnership provides the potential to transform the KiMo  
21 theater into an economically vibrant arts and culture  
22 destination for residents and visitors and for Keshet dance  
23 company to expand the quantity and diversity of children,  
24 youth, families and audiences reached throughout New Mexico;

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

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural affairs department, the  
2 economic development department, the tourism department, the  
3 public education department and the children, youth and  
4 families department be requested to work with Keshet dance  
5 company to further the goals of the organization by working  
6 with incarcerated and paroled youth, homeless youth,  
7 individuals with physical and developmental disabilities and  
8 professional artists and educators from throughout New Mexico  
9 to improve the lives of New Mexico residents, transform the  
10 KiMo theater into a revenue-generating arts and culture  
11 complex, create new jobs, increase revenues for the state and  
12 attract and retain audiences and individuals from around the  
13 world to New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the secretaries of cultural affairs, economic  
16 development, tourism, public education and children, youth and  
17 families.