

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE AND THE
3 INTERIM LEGISLATIVE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO CONVENE A
4 JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INDIAN
5 EDUCATION ACT.

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7 WHEREAS, it is the state's responsibility to ensure that
8 New Mexico Indian children receive an education that values
9 and respects the wisdom, knowledge, cultures and languages of
10 tribal communities; and

11 WHEREAS, Indian children deserve a quality education to
12 continue the legacy of strong Indian leadership for tribal
13 nations and the state; and

14 WHEREAS, the national Indian education association has
15 stated in its recommendations to improve the efficacy of the
16 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 that
17 federal and state agencies should collaborate with Indian
18 tribes to provide greater financial and technical support for
19 bureau of Indian education schools, including the opportunity
20 to utilize alternative measurement assessments and the
21 development of tribal adequate yearly progress or other
22 annual measurements of achievement; and

23 WHEREAS, the national Indian education association also
24 has stated in its recommendations to improve the efficacy of
25 the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

1 that a tribal "teacher preparation initiative" be authorized
2 and geared toward educators working or interested in working
3 at Native American schools or wherever there are significant
4 numbers of Native American students enrolled; and

5 WHEREAS, the legislature established the Indian
6 Education Act to "ensure that the department of education
7 partners with tribes to increase tribal involvement and
8 control over schools and the education of students located in
9 tribal communities"; and

10 WHEREAS, the Indian Education Act states the purpose of
11 that act is to "provide for the study, development and
12 implementation of educational systems that positively affect
13 the educational success of American Indian students"; and

14 WHEREAS, the 2009 New Mexico achievement gap solutions
15 summit convened by the office of the governor, public
16 education department and higher education department
17 identified several policy solutions to address the Native
18 American achievement gap, and these solutions include:

19 A. funding, implementing and enforcing the Indian
20 Education Act;

21 B. increasing the authority of the Indian
22 education advisory council;

23 C. ensuring that funds follow Indian students; and

24 D. redefining Native American student achievement
25 and developing alternative assessments;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
3 committee and the interim legislative Indian affairs
4 committee be requested to convene a joint subcommittee
5 composed of:

6 A. four members of the interim legislative Indian
7 affairs committee appointed by the committee co-chairs; and

8 B. three members of the legislative education
9 study committee appointed by the committee chair; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint subcommittee be
11 requested to:

12 A. examine the role of the Indian education
13 division of the public education department in improving the
14 academic achievement of the state's Native American students;

15 B. evaluate the role of the Indian education
16 advisory council in improving the academic achievement of the
17 state's Native American students;

18 C. study the effectiveness of the Indian Education
19 Act in improving the academic achievement of the state's
20 Native American students;

21 D. research and identify mechanisms to foster
22 parental involvement in the education of Native American
23 students;

24 E. reassess the utilization of funds to improve
25 Native American students' academic outcomes; and

1 F. develop an action plan with accompanying time
2 lines to improve Native American students' academic
3 achievement and narrow the achievement gap; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint subcommittee be
5 requested to make recommendations to the legislative
6 education study committee and the interim legislative Indian
7 affairs committee by October 1, 2011, and that the
8 recommendations should include:

9 A. identification of suggested amendments to the
10 Indian Education Act to increase the effectiveness of the act
11 in improving Native American students' academic outcomes;

12 B. suggested revisions to the formation, purpose,
13 duties and directive of the Indian education advisory council
14 to increase the effectiveness of the Indian Education Act in
15 improving Native American students' academic outcomes; and

16 C. proposed alternatives to the current methods of
17 funding for Indian education in New Mexico; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the co-chairs of the interim legislative Indian
20 affairs committee, the director of the legislative education
21 study committee, the secretary of public education and the
22 secretary of Indian affairs. _____

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