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HOUSE MEMORIAL 67

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC EDUCATION
PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP AND INCREASE THE
GRADUATION RATES OF HISPANIC, NATIVE AMERICAN AND AFRICAN
AMERICAN STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, New Mexicans honor their heritage, cultures and
languages as evidenced in the Hispanic Education Act, the
Indian Education Act and the Bilingual Multicultural Education
Act; and

WHEREAS, a free, public and sufficient education is
guaranteed for all children of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, seventy percent of New Mexico's public school
student population consists of Hispanic, Native American and
African American children, who are underachieving academically;
and

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1 WHEREAS, according to the 2012 edition of "Quality
2 Counts", the annual report card published by *Education Week*,
3 New Mexico is rated fiftieth on its "Chance-for-Success Index",
4 which grades the nation and states on thirteen indicators,
5 capturing the critical role that education plays as a person
6 moves from childhood through the K-12 system, and into college
7 and the work force; and

8 WHEREAS, the same report ranks New Mexico as forty-
9 seventh, with a grade of D minus, in the "K-12 Achievement
10 Index", which evaluates state educational performance on
11 eighteen individual indicators that measure current
12 achievement, improvements over time and poverty-based
13 disparities or gaps; and

14 WHEREAS, Hispanic, Native American and African American
15 students are dropping out of high school or post-secondary
16 education in numbers that severely threaten the social and
17 economic welfare of the state; and

18 WHEREAS, these students represent a significant portion of
19 New Mexico's future work force; and

20 WHEREAS, technological innovations continue to create jobs
21 for a skilled work force, and New Mexico's students must be
22 prepared for the jobs of the future; and

23 WHEREAS, a well-educated work force and citizenry is
24 widely viewed as the basis for economic stability and
25 competitiveness; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico's children of all colors are its
2 treasure; and

3 WHEREAS, the state must develop and support talented and
4 dedicated educators who are the key to delivering a high-
5 quality education to all students;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
8 legislative council be requested to convene a working group to
9 develop a comprehensive strategic education plan to eliminate
10 the achievement gap and increase the graduation rates of
11 Hispanic, Native American and African American students in New
12 Mexico; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
14 council be requested to include as members of the working group
15 representatives of the following: legislators; parents; the
16 public education department; the higher education department,
17 state public and private schools and universities;
18 organizations and advocacy groups that focus on educational
19 opportunities and progress for Hispanic, Native American and
20 African American students; organizations representing
21 educators; and business and community development
22 organizations; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
24 study committee and the legislative finance committee be
25 requested to assist in staffing the working group; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council, the public education department, the higher education department, the legislative education study committee and the legislative finance committee.