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SENATE MEMORIAL 60

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

INTRODUCED BY

Sue Wilson Beffort

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE FAMILIES, CHILDREN, EDUCATORS,  
ADMINISTRATORS AND PROGRAM STAFF WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE  
SUCCESS OF THE NEW MEXICO PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK is a program that the children,  
youth and families department and the public education  
department jointly administer that focuses on preparing  
children to enter kindergarten with the skills and dispositions  
necessary to be successful in school, to read by third grade,  
to graduate from high school and to be successful in life; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the legislature passed and the governor  
signed into law the Pre-Kindergarten Act, finding that a state  
pre-kindergarten program was necessary to provide four-year-old  
residents with an environment to foster their intellectual,  
emotional, social and physical development; and

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1           WHEREAS, under the Pre-Kindergarten Act, the New Mexico  
2 PreK program is charged with creating an effective, child-  
3 centered and developmentally appropriate learning environment;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico funded the national  
6 institute for early education research to carry out a  
7 comprehensive evaluation of the New Mexico PreK program,  
8 beginning with its first year of operation and ending in 2009;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, research, including that of the national  
11 institute for early education research, consistently shows that  
12 four-year-olds who have had the opportunity to participate in  
13 the pre-kindergarten program enter kindergarten with  
14 significantly greater language, literacy and mathematical  
15 skills than those children who have not participated in the  
16 program; and

17           WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK provides meaningful opportunities  
18 to engage parents in fostering their children's learning at  
19 home; and

20           WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK honors each child's home culture,  
21 knowledge and languages; and

22           WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK lays the foundation for  
23 developing the highly trained work force that New Mexico needs  
24 in the twenty-first century; and

25           WHEREAS, the national institute for early education

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1 research's studies show that New Mexico PreK can improve short-  
2 and long-term educational outcomes by reducing the numbers of  
3 children retained in their grade levels, lowering the number of  
4 children eligible for special education and increasing  
5 graduation rates; and

6 WHEREAS, studies have estimated that pre-kindergarten  
7 participants will have better educational outcomes that produce  
8 higher earnings, be less likely to engage in criminal behavior  
9 and be less likely to use welfare services; and

10 WHEREAS, the co-administration of the pre-kindergarten  
11 program by the children, youth and families department and the  
12 public education department supports a mixed delivery system  
13 that provides families choices among different types of  
14 programs and greater access to pre-kindergarten programs  
15 statewide; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK provides on-site consultation,  
17 scholarships from the teacher education and compensation helps  
18 program, also known as "T.E.A.C.H.", professional development  
19 opportunities and training that focuses on implementing a  
20 consistent, criterion-based instruction program; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK continuously assesses  
22 participants' learning and development across many domains of  
23 knowledge and skill; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK has modeled high-quality early  
25 childhood education and has helped to spread best practices in

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1 the field even to those programs that are not involved with New  
2 Mexico PreK; and

3 WHEREAS, the national institute for early education  
4 research study estimates New Mexico PreK's benefit to society  
5 to be six dollars seventeen cents (\$6.17) for every one dollar  
6 (\$1.00) invested;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
8 OF NEW MEXICO that the families, children, educators,  
9 administrators and program staff who have contributed to the  
10 success of the New Mexico PreK program be recognized and  
11 celebrated; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of children, youth  
14 and families and the secretary of public education.