

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE CONVENED TO STUDY THE
3 CREATION OF A HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FOR AMERICAN
4 INDIAN STUDENTS.

5
6 WHEREAS, American Indians enroll in, attend and graduate
7 from college at proportionately lower rates than any other
8 ethnic group in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the average annual salary of American Indian
10 high school graduates without a bachelor degree is twenty
11 thousand seven hundred twenty-one dollars (\$20,721) and with
12 a bachelor degree is forty-five thousand two hundred fourteen
13 dollars (\$45,214); and

14 WHEREAS, the receipt of a college education and degree
15 benefits more than the individual in an American Indian
16 community, where members serve as role models and mentors to
17 others; and

18 WHEREAS, American Indian populations experience a more
19 difficult transition to college life than other populations,
20 where the perspective of the majority governs academic and
21 student life; and

22 WHEREAS, American Indians in the state receive the
23 lottery tuition scholarship at proportionately lower rates
24 than other student populations; and

25 WHEREAS, American Indian populations experience a higher

1 rate of poverty than other populations, which can render
2 college cost-prohibitive; and

3 WHEREAS, tuition waiver programs for American Indians
4 exist in other states, including Colorado, Kansas, Maine,
5 Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana and Oklahoma, but not in
6 this state; and

7 WHEREAS, American Indian students would benefit from a
8 dedicated scholarship fund to use when they are ready for
9 college; and

10 WHEREAS, fourteen tribes have gaming compacts with the
11 state pursuant to the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act
12 requiring the tribes to share with the state part of their
13 gaming revenues; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2012, the state's share of the tribes'
15 gaming revenues was sixty-eight million three hundred
16 thousand dollars (\$68,300,000), which the tribes paid in
17 accordance with the revenue-sharing provisions of the gaming
18 compacts;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Indian affairs department be
21 requested to form a task force to study the creation of a
22 higher education scholarship fund for American Indian
23 students who are state residents; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be co-chaired
25 by the secretary of Indian affairs or the secretary's

1 designee and the director of American Indian student services
2 at the university of New Mexico, who shall appoint as members
3 of the task force:

4 A. a representative from the legislative education
5 study committee;

6 B. a representative from the institute of American
7 Indian arts;

8 C. a representative from Navajo technical college;

9 D. a representative from Dine college;

10 E. a representative from southwestern Indian
11 polytechnic institute;

12 F. a representative from central New Mexico
13 community college;

14 G. a representative from northern New Mexico
15 college;

16 H. three representatives from the eight northern
17 Indian pueblos council;

18 I. three representatives from the ten southern
19 pueblos council;

20 J. a representative from the Navajo Nation; and

21 K. a representative from the higher education
22 department; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study the
24 feasibility, economic impact and benefits of:

25 A. funding a higher education scholarship fund

1 with ten percent of the state's share of the tribes' gaming
2 revenues each year for American Indian students who are state
3 residents; and

4 B. permitting students to use the scholarship at
5 out-of-state or private higher educational institutions;
6 provided that the scholarship amount is capped at an amount
7 charged for attendance at an in-state public institution of
8 higher education; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the Indian affairs department, the American
11 Indian student services at the university of New Mexico, the
12 institute of American Indian arts, the legislative education
13 study committee, Navajo technical college, Dine college,
14 southwestern Indian polytechnic institute, central New Mexico
15 community college, northern New Mexico college, the eight
16 northern Indian pueblos council, the ten southern pueblos
17 council, the Navajo Nation and the higher education
18 department.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25