

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM MARCH 2, 2018 "SPEECH AND
3 DEBATE EDUCATION DAY" IN NEW MEXICO.

4
5 WHEREAS, national speech and debate education day is
6 being celebrated on March 2, 2018 to promote enhanced
7 instruction in speech and debate across all grade levels and
8 to highlight the pivotal role speech and debate abilities
9 play in personal advocacy, social movements and public
10 policy; and

11 WHEREAS, speech and debate education helps students
12 develop important skills in communication, critical thinking,
13 creativity and collaboration through the practice of public
14 speaking; and

15 WHEREAS, speech and debate education in New Mexico has
16 grown significantly over the past decade, with thousands of
17 students participating every year; and

18 WHEREAS, speech and debate instruction is an essential
19 component of a well-rounded educational curriculum, and
20 New Mexico speech and debate alumni have been admitted to the
21 top colleges and universities across the globe; and

22 WHEREAS, through speech and debate, participants learn
23 not only to analyze and express complex ideas effectively,
24 but also to listen, concur, question and dissent with reason
25 and compassion; and

1 WHEREAS, the skills learned through speech and debate
2 empower youth to become engaged citizens, skilled
3 professionals and leaders in today's global society; and

4 WHEREAS, countless educators in New Mexico devote
5 in-school, after-school and weekend time to supporting their
6 students in speech and debate practices and competitions, and
7 their example of hard work and dedication makes a lasting,
8 positive impact on their pupils; and

9 WHEREAS, students from New Mexico have finished at the
10 top of the national speech and debate tournament every year;
11 the 2012 national speech and debate student of the year was
12 from East Mountain high school in Sandia Park; and debaters
13 from New Mexico consistently place in the top five in the
14 world in the international public policy forum; and

15 WHEREAS, the New Mexico speech and debate association
16 will host the 2020 national speech and debate tournament in
17 Albuquerque; and

18 WHEREAS, the 2020 national speech and debate tournament
19 will be one of the largest conferences ever held in
20 Albuquerque, hosting an estimated ten thousand students,
21 coaches and volunteers; and

22 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the 2020 national speech
23 and debate tournament will add ten million dollars
24 (\$10,000,000) to the Albuquerque economy;

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

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that in recognition of the substantial
2 contribution speech and debate experience makes to students'
3 educations and lives, the governor be requested to proclaim
4 March 2, 2018 "Speech and Debate Education Day" in
5 New Mexico; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of public
8 education, the president of the New Mexico speech and debate
9 association and the executive director of the national speech
10 and debate association.

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