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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO EXPLORE METHODS TO REINSTATE AND SUPPORT MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, family and consumer sciences education is a field of study that focuses on families, work and their interrelationships; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico family and consumer sciences educators foster creativity in students and teach them to work effectively in teams to solve personal, family, community and real-world issues; and

WHEREAS, those educators engage students in relevant, hands-on strategies and reinforce principles of planning, managing and research; and

WHEREAS, family and consumer sciences courses encourage students to act responsibly and productively and become contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, middle school family and consumer sciences curricula are designed to address current and extremely pressing issues that affect the well-being of New Mexico's children; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico family and consumer sciences educators actively promote and develop science, computer literacy, engineering and mathematics literacy skills in

1 youth, including critical thinking, reasoning and problem
2 solving; and

3 WHEREAS, middle school family and consumer sciences
4 programs enhance a student's knowledge in science with
5 components focused on the global environment, food and
6 nutritional sciences, safety and sanitation for cleaner
7 environments and instruction on food borne illnesses; and

8 WHEREAS, middle school family and consumer sciences
9 programs include computer literacy components focused on the
10 use of computer-enhanced kitchen equipment, use of
11 high-technology machines, computer presentations and other
12 technology applications; and

13 WHEREAS, those programs also include engineering
14 components involving interior design, home and kitchen
15 design, textile design and manufacturing and product
16 development and packaging; and

17 WHEREAS, the programs include mathematics components,
18 including food weight and measurement, personal finances and
19 fitness, family budgeting and taxes and algebra and geometry
20 in fashion design; and

21 WHEREAS, middle school family and consumer sciences
22 programs teach career exploration skills, including
23 leadership, employability, team building, communication and
24 time management skills; and

25 WHEREAS, middle schools with family and consumer

1 sciences programs prepare young adults for healthy,
2 sustainable and successful careers; and

3 WHEREAS, middle school career and technical education
4 programs will qualify for Perkins V federal funding from the
5 Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st
6 Century Act through the public education department in the
7 school year 2020-2021; and

8 WHEREAS, those programs are important in helping
9 students build a strong foundation for employability, healthy
10 relationships and vital life skills;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
13 requested to explore methods to reinstate and support middle
14 school family and consumer sciences programs in New Mexico;
15 and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
17 department be encouraged to inform superintendents and middle
18 school principals of the necessity for these programs; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by December 1, 2019, the
20 secretary of public education be requested to report to the
21 legislative education study committee recommendations to
22 reinforce and support middle school family and consumer
23 science programs; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the board of

1 directors of the New Mexico association of family and consumer
2 sciences, the New Mexico school superintendents' association
3 and the New Mexico school boards association. _____

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