

1 A MEMORIAL

2 ACKNOWLEDGING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HISPANIC EDUCATION ACT
3 AND THE BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION ACT AND REQUESTING
4 THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY HISPANIC
5 AND BILINGUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

6
7 WHEREAS, Hispanic students constitute the majority of
8 the student population in New Mexico and face achievement
9 gaps in academic performance, graduation rates and college
10 and career readiness; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a rich bilingual and
12 multicultural heritage, with a significant number of Hispanic
13 students who are English learners requiring specialized
14 instructional support and who may benefit from multicultural
15 education and culturally responsive pedagogy; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico was the first state in the nation to
17 enact laws to serve Hispanic, bilingual and multicultural
18 students with the Hispanic Education Act and the Bilingual
19 Multicultural Education Act, which promote educational
20 equity, bilingual proficiency and culturally responsive
21 education; and

22 WHEREAS, the Hispanic Education Act aims to improve
23 educational outcomes and expand educational opportunities for
24 Hispanic students by fostering collaboration among public
25 schools, the public education department, the higher

1 education department and community organizations to address
2 achievement gaps, increase graduation rates, foster parental
3 involvement and increase post-secondary enrollment, retention
4 and completion; and

5 WHEREAS, the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act aims
6 to ensure equal educational opportunities by incorporating
7 students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds into learning,
8 by promoting bilingualism, cognitive development and
9 appreciation of diverse languages and cultures and by
10 providing discretion to local school boards and charter
11 school governing bodies over program funding if they meet the
12 outlined program needs; and

13 WHEREAS, the public education department oversees and
14 reports on the implementation of bilingual and multicultural
15 education programs and oversees the bilingual multicultural
16 education advisory council that consists of educators, school
17 leaders and higher education faculty; and

18 WHEREAS, the legislature has allocated funding for the
19 Hispanic Education Act and the Bilingual Multicultural
20 Education Act, but direct impact of the funding on students
21 and their communities remains unclear; and

22 WHEREAS, the *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit highlighted
23 Hispanic English-learning students' struggle with academic
24 performance in reading and math, with those in bilingual
25 programs performing only slightly better than their peers

1 outside these programs; and

2 WHEREAS, research emphasizes that well-implemented
3 bilingual multicultural education strengthens executive
4 function, expands career and higher education opportunities
5 and improves academic achievement; and

6 WHEREAS, evaluating current programming for Hispanic
7 and bilingual students and the funding structure and resource
8 allocation for these programs would help inform legislative
9 recommendations to strengthen educational outcomes for
10 Hispanic and bilingual students by identifying successful
11 initiatives and by maximizing the impact of the limited
12 resources appropriated;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that this
15 legislative body hereby acknowledge the significance of the
16 Hispanic Education Act and the Bilingual Multicultural
17 Education Act and request the legislative education study
18 committee to study the implementation of those acts and the
19 current state of Hispanic education and bilingual programs,
20 including evaluating and identifying successful initiatives
21 related to students' academic performance and the funding
22 structures for Hispanic and bilingual education; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
24 study committee be requested to study Hispanic and bilingual
25 education in collaboration with:

- 1 A. a representative group of youth;
- 2 B. representatives of the student groups named in
- 3 the *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit;
- 4 C. educator preparation programs;
- 5 D. educational leaders and educators with
- 6 expertise in bilingual education;
- 7 E. higher education institutions;
- 8 F. members of the community; and
- 9 G. the public education department; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education

11 study committee be requested to publish a report of its

12 research and recommendations by December 31, 2025; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

14 transmitted to the director of the legislative education

15 study committee and the secretary of public education._____

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