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SENATE MEMORIAL 7

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

INTRODUCED BY

CYNTHIA NAVA

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO INTEGRATE SERVICE LEARNING
INTO THE ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SO THAT ALL NEW MEXICAN
KINDERGARTEN THROUGH COLLEGE STUDENTS SHALL HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, throughout the United States and New Mexico
there is a strong interest in community service being an
integral component of academic pedagogy at all educational
levels and across all academic disciplines; and

WHEREAS, it is currently estimated that more than ten
million students, twenty thousand in New Mexico, are
participating in a variety of service learning activities and
programs through their regular and elective classes; and

WHEREAS, many of New Mexico's service learning projects

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1 have been identified and recognized as national models; and

2 WHEREAS, service learning experiences, in applying
3 classroom knowledge to real life situations, improve academic
4 learning and contribute to the development of self-esteem,
5 character, responsibility and citizenship, while exposing
6 young people to potential careers; and

7 WHEREAS, service learning cultivates young people as
8 resources who make positive contributions to their
9 communities; and

10 WHEREAS, some states have passed legislation requiring
11 that students be afforded opportunities to participate in
12 service learning activities; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico currently receives over one million
14 two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) from the federal
15 government to facilitate community service activities for
16 people of all ages, and an alliance of kindergarten through
17 grade twelve service learning providers includes over eight
18 hundred educators; and

19 WHEREAS, nine federally funded regional service learning
20 centers, located in Taos, Farmington, Las Vegas, Santa Fe,
21 Albuquerque, Gallup, Portales, Silver City and Las Cruces,
22 have already trained over one thousand two hundred teachers in
23 service learning and are helping to spread service learning to
24 all regions of New Mexico; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1997, the state department of public

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1 education allocated ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) of New
2 Mexico's federal Goals 2000 funds to support professional
3 development opportunities for service learning in eleven
4 school districts; and

5 WHEREAS, the forty-second legislature, in 1995, allocated
6 fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) to the state department
7 of public education to help build infrastructure for service
8 learning; and

9 WHEREAS, the honorable governor of New Mexico endorsed
10 community service as a key element of his education platform
11 in his 1994 gubernational campaign;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
13 NEW MEXICO that it request the state department of public
14 education and the commission on higher education to integrate
15 service learning into the entire educational system so that
16 all New Mexican kindergarten through college students have the
17 opportunity to engage in such activities; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a joint report be produced
19 within one year that identifies the strategies for the
20 integration of service learning into kindergarten through
21 college curricula and provides cost estimates for ensuring
22 that service learning has standards of effective practice, is
23 included in New Mexico's academic performance standards, is
24 promoted statewide and uses professional development to ensure
25 the highest quality; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public education and the commission on higher education produce their report for review by the appropriate interim legislative committee by December 1, 1998 for development of legislation to be presented to the first session of the forty-fourth legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this memorial be transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction, the state board of education and the commission on higher education.

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

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5 February 11, 1998

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7 Mr. President:

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9 Your RULES COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

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11 SENATE MEMORIAL 7

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13 has had it under consideration and reports same with
14 recommendation that it DO PASS.

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16 Respectfully submitted,

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23 Gloria Howes, Chairman

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Adopted _____ Not

Adopted _____

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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8 The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

9 Yes: 5

10 No: 0

11 Excused: Adair, Aragon, Gorham

12 Absent: None

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