

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 HONORING NEW MEXICO'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
12 BILINGUAL EDUCATION FACULTIES' EFFORTS AND REQUESTING THE
13 LEGISLATURE TO DECREE A JOINT BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY
14 BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AMONG THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW
15 MEXICO, WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY, NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS
16 UNIVERSITY AND NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY.

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18 WHEREAS, on the evening of the fifty-second anniversary of
19 the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act, the legislature
20 acknowledges the need for well-prepared bilingual and
21 multilingual educators who will serve the unique cultural and
22 linguistic diversity of New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2015, the university of New Mexico was
24 designated as the recipient of funding to design and develop an
25 undergraduate bilingual education degree with New Mexico

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1 highlands university, eastern New Mexico university, New Mexico
2 state university and western New Mexico university; and

3 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, bilingual faculty from the state's
4 institutions of higher education have developed and taught
5 bilingual coursework since the early 1970s; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university developed and
7 implemented a master's degree program in bilingual education in
8 1971 through 1975; and

9 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico established the
10 American Indian language policy research and teacher training
11 center in 2007 to support indigenous language maintenance and
12 revitalization initiatives; and

13 WHEREAS, numerous bilingual education faculty from across
14 the state's institutions of higher education have provided
15 expert testimony at state, federal and congressional hearings
16 and commissions regarding the need for supporting bilingual
17 education policies and programing; and

18 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico's Native American
19 bilingual faculty were instrumental in the development and
20 implementation of a New Mexico 520 alternative certification
21 process to increase the number of Native American language
22 teachers in New Mexico public schools; and

23 WHEREAS, recent efforts of bilingual education faculty in
24 New Mexico's institutions of higher education have resulted in
25 the development of bilingual chapters of educators increasing

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1 in New Mexico in feeder high schools and in institutions of
2 higher education for the purpose of growing new generations of
3 bilingual teachers; and

4 WHEREAS, the Spanish proficiency endorsement exam, whose
5 name translates to "la prueba for Spanish bilingual teachers",
6 was co-created in the 1990s by a New Mexico highlands
7 university bilingual faculty member to ensure that students
8 receive high-quality instruction in New Mexico public schools;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico adopted the state seal of
11 bilingualism-biliteracy in 2014 to encourage the study of
12 languages among New Mexico's secondary students; and

13 WHEREAS, numerous bilingual education faculty in New
14 Mexico institutions of higher education have served in
15 leadership positions on the bilingual multicultural education
16 advisory council, the New Mexico association for bilingual
17 education and dual language education of New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, there is a dire shortage of bilingual teachers,
19 resulting in the inability of the state to respond to major
20 findings of fact and conclusions of law in the *Martinez/Yazzie*
21 *v. State of New Mexico* case and to fulfill the promise
22 envisioned in the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be
25 requested to work with the university of New Mexico, western

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1 New Mexico university, New Mexico highlands university and New
2 Mexico state university bilingual education faculty to develop
3 a joint bachelor's degree in elementary bilingual multicultural
4 education; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
6 department be requested to review and address the need for
7 providing scholarships for individuals who currently hold a
8 bachelor's or master's degree in bilingual education, or
9 students who graduated with a state seal of bilingualism-
10 biliteracy on the students' New Mexico diploma of excellence,
11 to cover the cost of pursuing a doctorate in bilingual
12 education in order to teach bilingual education to college of
13 education students at state institutions of higher education in
14 New Mexico; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funds be made available to
16 support an increase of bilingual education faculty lines to
17 support this joint elementary bilingual multicultural education
18 degree; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that students who graduate with the
20 state seal of bilingualism-biliteracy be granted college credit
21 in a language other than English throughout all institutions of
22 higher education, including indigenous students, regardless of
23 whether those students' languages are written or oral; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
25 department be requested to review and address the need for

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1 providing scholarships for students pursuing bilingual
2 multicultural education teaching degrees or bilingual
3 multicultural education terminal degrees in New Mexico
4 universities and colleges; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
6 department be requested to fully address, fund and support the
7 linguistic rights of New Mexico's bilingual multicultural
8 students, as provided for in Article 12, Section 8 of the
9 constitution of New Mexico, the Bilingual Multicultural
10 Education Act and the federal Native American Languages Act,
11 and comply with the court rulings of *Serna v. Portales*, *Lau v.*
12 *Nichols*, *Castaneda v. Pickard* and *Martinez/Yazzie v. State of*
13 *New Mexico*; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the deans of the colleges of education of the
16 university of New Mexico, western New Mexico university, New
17 Mexico highlands university and New Mexico state university,
18 the secretary of public education and the secretary of higher
19 education.

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