A MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST SCHOOL
DISTRICTS IN PROVIDING INTERNET ACCESS TO TEACHERS STATEWIDE.

WHEREAS, internet access is critical to quality education; and
WHEREAS, during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, a lack of internet access has hampered the ability of many school teachers statewide; and
WHEREAS, many teachers contend with unreliable internet connectivity that interferes with the teachers' ability to provide online lessons to students; and
WHEREAS, wireless networking hotspots may not be available to teachers who provide online lessons to students; and
WHEREAS, internet access fees are a financial hardship for many teachers; and
WHEREAS, assistance with the payment of internet fees
during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic would be
beneficial to teachers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public
education department be requested to assist school districts in
providing internet access to teachers statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the public education
department receives additional federal economic stimulus funds
as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019, the department be
requested to earmark a portion of those funds to pay for
internet access for school teachers statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if additional federal
economic stimulus funds are received as a result of the
coronavirus disease 2019, school districts be requested to
provide to the public education department each month the
number of teachers in the school district in need of assistance
to pay for internet access costs and receipts from each teacher
for actual expenses paid out of pocket for internet services;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funds available pursuant to
these provisions would only apply to teachers who had not been
provided a Wi-Fi hotspot by the school district and had not
returned to in-person teaching; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
transmitted to the secretary of public education.

    - 3 -