A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE BENEFITS AND FUNDING OF SCHOOL CHOICE.

WHEREAS, the ability to have school choice is about the
fundamental right of parents to have access to the educational
environment that serves their children best; and

WHEREAS, parents should have a wide range of high-quality
schools or educational options to choose from, such as
traditional public schools, public charter schools, private
schools or virtual learning; and

WHEREAS, in "School Choice: A Defining Social Justice
Issue", the late Bishop Joseph P. McFadden stated that for
parents, providing an education for their children is a moral
obligation, but that some parents, especially in low-income
families, have no choice but to send their children to a school
that may not be helping them reach their potential; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves access to a quality
education that provides the knowledge, skills and values
necessary to prepare them for a successful career and
fulfilling life; and

WHEREAS, because of where they live, many children are
assigned to schools that may not fit their unique needs and
learning styles; and

WHEREAS, a system of free public schools sufficient for
the education of, and open to, all children of school age
should be established and maintained; and

WHEREAS, to provide additional options for school choice,
the constitution of New Mexico would need to be amended, with
the approval of congress, to allow for the distribution of
public school funding to parents or legal guardians of school-
age children for home school or private school or for public
school distance education under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, in searching for ways to provide school choice,
New Mexico is urged to support equitable access to education
choices by supporting the ability to choose one or more schools
in one or more settings offered by one or more providers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
education study committee be requested to study the benefits
and funding of school choice; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education study committee be requested to consider the feasibility of amending the constitution of New Mexico, with the approval of congress, to allow for the distribution of public school funding to parents or legal guardians of school-age children for home school or private school or for public school distance education under certain circumstances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education department, at least one parent of a private school student, at least one parent of a public charter school student, at least one parent of a home school student, at least one parent of a traditional public school student, one representative from the New Mexico association of nonpublic schools, one representative from the New Mexico conference of Catholic bishops and one representative from the American federation for children be requested to assist the legislative education study committee as required; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of public education and the chair of the legislative education study committee.

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