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HOUSE MEMORIAL 34

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Kandy Cordova

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING A MOVE TOWARD PARITY BETWEEN THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT ACT AND THE EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT ACT IN ORDER TO
ATTRACT AND RETAIN TEACHERS STATEWIDE AND PROVIDE A HIGH
QUALITY EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF NEW MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is facing a shortage of
teachers as a result of retirements, resignations and
difficulties attracting and retaining quality individuals to
the profession; and**

**WHEREAS, research confirms that teacher quality is the
single most influential determinant of student academic
success, outside of home and family circumstances; and**

**WHEREAS, the disparity between the retirement benefits of
the Public Employees Retirement Act and the Educational
Retirement Act has been a growing concern since the 1994**

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1 amendments to the Public Employees Retirement Act that enhance
2 retirement benefits; and

3 WHEREAS, the lack of parity between retirement benefits
4 of the Public Employees Retirement Act and the Educational
5 Retirement Act may be a contributing factor to the teacher
6 shortage in New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, the legislature has attempted to correct this
8 disparity since 1994;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state of
11 New Mexico move toward parity between the Public Employees
12 Retirement Act and the Educational Retirement Act in order to
13 attract and retain teachers statewide and provide a high
14 quality education for the children of New Mexico.