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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 80

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

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia L. Nava

A JOINT MEMORIAL

DECLARING "ENLACE NEW MEXICO DAY" AT THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, data from the state department of public education, the commission on higher education and the national center for education statistics illustrate an unacceptable achievement gap separating Latino students from the highest achieving groups in New Mexico public schools; and

WHEREAS, forty-five percent of the Latino students in New Mexico do not graduate from high school; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, New Mexico ranked forty-second among states in its ability to graduate students from high school; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks thirty-first among states for college attendance by high school students, although it ranks second per capita in spending on higher education; and

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WHEREAS, states that have improved performance for Latino students and reduced the gap between Latino students and other populations have comprehensive articulation between the public schools and institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ENLACE, engaging Latino communities for education, is dedicated to the goal of improving Latino student performance and reducing performance gaps;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 6, 2002 be declared "New Mexico ENLACE Day" at the legislature and that recognition be extended to New Mexico ENLACE for its service in recognizing the economic importance of supporting high expectations for Latino students, parent involvement, stimulating and culturally oriented curricula, fair and appropriate learning assessments, rigorous teacher preparation and continuous professional development and high articulation between public schools and institutions of higher education in order to contribute to the academic success and excellence of all students in New Mexico.