

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 5

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE INDIAN EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STUDY AND CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC INITIATIVES IN SCHOOLS WITH HIGH ENROLLMENTS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, approximately eleven percent of public school students in New Mexico are Native American, making them the second largest minority group, after Caucasian students, in the public schools of the state; and

WHEREAS, the gap in reading achievement between Native American and white non-Hispanic students in New Mexico on the national assessment of educational progress test is twenty-eight percentage points in grade four and twenty-six percentage points in grade eight; and

WHEREAS, the gap in mathematics achievement between Native

.159649.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 American and white non-Hispanic students in New Mexico on the
2 national assessment of educational progress test is twenty-five
3 percentage points in grade four and twenty-two percentage
4 points in grade eight; and

5 WHEREAS, in Oklahoma, Native Americans represent
6 approximately eighteen percent of public school students;
7 however, in Oklahoma the achievement gap between Native
8 American and white non-Hispanic students on the national
9 assessment of educational progress test is ten to eighteen
10 points less than in New Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, many other states also have lower achievement
12 gaps between Native American and white non-Hispanic students
13 than New Mexico in reading and mathematics; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2003, the New Mexico legislature enacted the
15 Indian Education Act as a means to provide for the study,
16 development and implementation of educational programs that
17 positively affect the educational success of Native American
18 students; and

19 WHEREAS, the Indian Education Act requires the Indian
20 education division of the public education department to
21 provide assistance to school districts and tribes to meet the
22 educational needs of Native American students; and

23 WHEREAS, if educators in other states have identified
24 methods that are succeeding in reducing the achievement gap
25 between Native American and non-Native American students, it

.159649.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 would greatly benefit Native American students in New Mexico if
2 educators in this state had the opportunity to implement those
3 methods;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Indian education division of the
6 public education department be requested to study the
7 successful academic initiatives for reducing the achievement
8 gap between Native American and non-Native American students
9 undertaken in other states that have large Native American
10 populations; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
12 department consider supporting the implementation of the most
13 successful of these initiatives in New Mexico schools that have
14 a high proportion of Native American students; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
17 committee and the secretary of public education for appropriate
18 distribution.

19 - 3 -
20
21
22
23
24
25