

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 37

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH A
WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH SAVE THE CHILDREN TO ENSURE READING
LITERACY OF INDIAN CHILDREN.

WHEREAS, the ability of elementary school students to
master reading at grade level is an indicator of future
success, and studies have conclusively shown that reading
proficiently by the end of third grade is a crucial marker in a
child's educational development; and

WHEREAS, student reading comprehension at the elementary
school level is a major factor that influences future
comprehension of other core learning subjects, and a student's
reading level at the end of third grade was also shown to be a
predictor of graduation and college attendance, even when
demographic characteristics were included as controls; and

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1 WHEREAS, failure to read proficiently is linked to higher
2 student dropout rates and suppression of individual learning
3 potential as well as a reduction in New Mexico's
4 competitiveness and general productivity; and

5 WHEREAS, save the children is an internationally respected
6 nonprofit organization that has delivered crucial services to
7 children in New Mexico for sixty-four years since its response
8 to the Navajo blizzard of 1948; and

9 WHEREAS, save the children has invested millions of
10 dollars from private sources in New Mexico over the last seven
11 decades in programs focused on nutrition, education, child
12 care, literacy and overall family support; and

13 WHEREAS, save the children's New Mexico programs have
14 evolved to focus on current literacy-centered school
15 partnerships to improve the reading comprehension and literacy
16 of Native American children in nine schools in New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, the save the children rural literacy initiative
18 after-school program provides the students served with the
19 equivalent of an additional three and one-third months of
20 academic reading instruction; and

21 WHEREAS, save the children is committed to reading results
22 that can be quantified and measured against existing state
23 standards-based assessments and through short-cycle assessments
24 delivered in conjunction with the program; and

25 WHEREAS, save the children wishes to enhance its learning

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1 partnership with the public education department to improve
2 literacy for Native American students, to assist with their
3 physical fitness through its "Healthy Choices Program" and to
4 increase cultural competency requirements by expanding its
5 Native American after-school curriculum to include a new
6 "Cultural Enrichment Program";

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
9 requested to establish a working relationship with save the
10 children to ensure that reading literacy data collected by save
11 the children through the department's Indian education
12 division's rural literacy initiative, and through the STAR and
13 accelerated reader literacy programs administered through
14 participating Native American schools by save the children, be
15 aligned and compared with the literacy data collected for
16 students participating in the rural literacy initiative by the
17 department; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
19 department work jointly with save the children to allow save
20 the children to provide the funding necessary to complete the
21 alignment of literacy data for each student in the Indian
22 education division's rural literacy initiative with the
23 department's standards-based assessment and common core
24 standards measurements; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the
2 director of save the children.

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