

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING CONGRESS TO CONSIDER THE EDUCATION FOR ALL ACT OF
12 2011.

13
14 WHEREAS, children in New Mexico are guaranteed a uniform
15 system of free public schools under Article 12, Section 1 of
16 the constitution of New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, in all of the United States, the free public
18 school system guarantees all children equal educational
19 opportunities regardless of gender, race, religion or
20 socioeconomic status; and

21 WHEREAS, education is recognized by the United Nations as
22 a basic human right; and

23 WHEREAS, Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human
24 Rights decrees that compulsory and free education in the
25 elementary and fundamental stages is the right of every child;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, the United Nations millennium development goals,
3 to which the United States is a signatory, include the target
4 that "by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will
5 be able to complete a full course of primary schooling"; and

6 WHEREAS, Pakistani Malala Yousafzai, a teenager who was
7 almost killed for her education activism, and other children of
8 developing countries, as well as their parents, exhibit a
9 desire for education and a willingness to sacrifice comfort and
10 sometimes risk their lives in pursuit of education; and

11 WHEREAS, studies show that educating children confers
12 benefits on the population as a whole, as higher rates of
13 primary education are correlated with lower rates of food
14 insecurity and human immunodeficiency virus infection; and

15 WHEREAS, studies also show that every year of schooling
16 results in a twenty percent reduction in an adolescent boy's
17 risk of becoming involved in conflict; and

18 WHEREAS, supporting education in developing and conflict-
19 ridden nations will provide an opportunity for millions to
20 escape poverty, disease and conflict, thereby promoting global
21 health, economic security and political stability; and

22 WHEREAS, United States security and prosperity are
23 enhanced by lowering tensions and unrest in developing
24 countries, thereby limiting the necessity for armed
25 interventions; and

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1 WHEREAS, United States' interests are best served by using
2 its development aid appropriations in the most efficient ways
3 possible, including working with other donor countries in
4 multilateral efforts; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States includes education aid in the
6 money designated specifically for foreign assistance and
7 benefits from using that money in the most efficient and
8 effective manner possible; and

9 WHEREAS, maximizing the benefit of foreign aid dollars
10 through the federal Education for All Act of 2011 would not
11 negatively affect the resources available for New Mexico's
12 children and schools; and

13 WHEREAS, the bipartisan Education for All Act of 2011
14 would amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote
15 primary education in developing countries as an objective of
16 United States foreign assistance policy; and

17 WHEREAS, universal access to quality primary education for
18 children is as important for societies around the world as it
19 is for people in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, the New Mexico chapters of the national education
21 association, the American federation of teachers, the New
22 Mexico association for the education of young children and the
23 New Mexico public health association have endorsed the
24 Education for All Act of 2011;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the members of the New Mexico
2 congressional delegation be requested to consider and to
3 support the Education for All Act of 2011 and any successors in
4 future United States congressional sessions, as such bills may
5 be renamed; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted
7 to the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.