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HOUSE MEMORIAL 99

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO FORM A WORK GROUP TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF FULLY FUNDING THE FORMULA FOR ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

WHEREAS, twenty-six adult education centers around New Mexico enrolled nineteen thousand three hundred sixty-four students for academic year 2012-2013; and

WHEREAS, adult education centers help students to learn basic literacy and numeracy skills, earn a high school equivalency certificate, learn English as a second language and prepare for college and careers and also learn how to obtain and keep a job; and

WHEREAS, the higher education department reports an overwhelming need for adult education services based on 2012-2013 enrollment data indicating that ninety-one percent of the

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1 students served functioned below the secondary school level,
2 including second-language speakers, and only nine percent were
3 able to function at the adult secondary educational level; and

4 WHEREAS, in the 2012-2013 academic year, adult education
5 programs in New Mexico produced one thousand eight hundred
6 fifty-four high school graduates, and more than eight hundred
7 fifty adult education students enrolled in college and career
8 training; and

9 WHEREAS, adult education provided New Mexico employers an
10 enhanced work force of more than one thousand adults; and

11 WHEREAS, more than four hundred thousand adults in New
12 Mexico have their opportunities limited because of their lack
13 of education or English-speaking skills, two hundred and forty
14 thousand of whom have not finished high school; and

15 WHEREAS, adult education centers report more than one
16 thousand eligible students on waiting lists for services and
17 twenty-four communities or community organizations requesting
18 adult education services; and

19 WHEREAS, in addition to growing enrollment, adult
20 education programs and students face increased costs to obtain
21 credentials because three out of four students are below the
22 poverty level; and

23 WHEREAS, the higher education department reports a high
24 return on investment, estimating that the state receives five
25 hundred sixty-six percent return on investment in savings on

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1 public welfare services and increased income taxes for its
2 annual general fund appropriation;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher
5 education department, in cooperation with the legislative
6 education study committee and the legislative finance
7 committee, be requested to form a work group to study the
8 feasibility of fully funding the formula for adult education
9 programs; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
11 department appoint members to the work group who represent the
12 New Mexico adult education association, the national council of
13 the state directors of adult education, community-based adult
14 education organizations, the New Mexico association of
15 community colleges, the New Mexico independent community
16 colleges, community college finance offices, the director of
17 institutional research at the university of New Mexico, the
18 adult basic education division of the higher education
19 department, the legislative finance committee and the
20 legislative education study committee; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff for the work group be
22 provided by the higher education department, the legislative
23 education study committee and the legislative finance
24 committee; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group compile data on
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1 the need for adult education services in New Mexico, base
2 funding costs per program, cost per student served and
3 performance-based funding incentives; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group recommend a
5 fully funded formula based on a full workload that is adjusted
6 annually; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group present its
8 recommendations to the legislative education study committee by
9 August 1, 2014; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the directors
12 of the legislative education study committee and the
13 legislative finance committee, the director of institutional
14 research at the university of New Mexico, the executive
15 director of the New Mexico independent community colleges, the
16 president of the board of the New Mexico association of
17 community colleges and the president of the New Mexico adult
18 education association.