

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Michael Padilla

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY ELIGIBILITY
12 REQUIREMENTS AND EFFECTS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THOSE
13 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S BRIDGE TO
14 SUCCESS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND FOR SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN OTHER
15 HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

16
17 WHEREAS, an important goal of New Mexican parents is to
18 send their children to college; and

19 WHEREAS, education is a key to the state's economic
20 competitiveness, and a more educated labor force would support
21 New Mexico's future economic and social development; and

22 WHEREAS, a college education is necessary for young people
23 to gain financial security; and

24 WHEREAS, higher education policy should ensure that
25 educational opportunities are not limited by a family's income,

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1 race or ethnicity; and

2 WHEREAS, fairness rests on equal access to the education
3 needed for economic success; and

4 WHEREAS, the cost of higher education continues to soar in
5 New Mexico, and affordability limits access and equal
6 opportunity; and

7 WHEREAS, a 2.5 college grade point average previously
8 required for the university of New Mexico's bridge to success
9 scholarship program resulted in an increase of students
10 attending college by up to six percent; and

11 WHEREAS, the legislative lottery scholarship program has
12 helped many disadvantaged students attend college; and

13 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico's bridge to success
14 scholarship program provides one thousand dollars (\$1,000)
15 toward the first semester tuition for freshmen before the
16 legislative lottery scholarship is awarded; and

17 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico's bridge to success
18 scholarship program has used the same 2.5 grade point average
19 requirement as the legislative lottery scholarship program,
20 benefiting freshmen students of all backgrounds; and

21 WHEREAS, the bridge to success scholarship program is
22 under the direct control of the university of New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico has the authority to
24 provide for stricter eligibility requirements, including the
25 minimum grade point average requirements for the bridge to

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1 success scholarship program; and

2 WHEREAS, certain changes could impact the eligibility of
3 many traditionally underrepresented and economically
4 disadvantaged students;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that during the 2014 interim, the higher
7 education department be requested to examine eligibility
8 requirements for the university of New Mexico's bridge to
9 success scholarship program and any proposed changes to those
10 requirements; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
12 department be requested to study the eligibility requirements
13 and any proposed changes to the requirements of similar
14 programs in other higher educational institutions in the state;
15 and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
17 department be requested to study the effects of any proposed
18 changes to the eligibility requirements, including student
19 achievement and well-being, particularly with respect to
20 students who come from underrepresented and disadvantaged
21 communities; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
23 department be requested to prepare a report and present
24 findings and recommendations to the legislative education study
25 committee by November 1, 2014; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the secretary of higher education for
3 distribution to the boards of regents of the university of New
4 Mexico and the other higher educational institutions in the
5 state.

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