

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 13

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS TO COOPERATE IN A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS AT PUBLIC POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WHO MENTOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, higher education costs continue to escalate, even though wages are stagnant and the economy is recovering at a glacial pace in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, society does its college students a grave disservice when students are required to carry crippling debt after finishing their education; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a program that allows for loan forgiveness for college graduates who work in public service; and

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1           WHEREAS, the state should investigate the efficacy of such  
2 a program at New Mexico's public post-secondary educational  
3 institutions; and

4           WHEREAS, there are public services that students could  
5 provide during their college years that would lower their upon-  
6 graduation debt; and

7           WHEREAS, one significant contribution that college  
8 students make is to provide tutoring and mentorship for  
9 kindergarten through eighth grades, particularly for students  
10 who struggle with core subjects;

11           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education and public  
13 education departments be requested to study the feasibility of  
14 implementing a student loan forgiveness program at public post-  
15 secondary educational institutions in which qualified college  
16 students tutor and mentor kindergarten through eighth grade  
17 students who need extra help to achieve academic success; and

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments report their  
19 findings and recommendations to the governor, the legislative  
20 education study committee and the legislative finance committee  
21 and that a copy be filed with the legislative council service  
22 library; and

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the secretaries of higher education and public  
25 education and the directors of the legislative education study

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committee and the legislative finance committee.