

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 URGING MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND
12 ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT
13 LEGISLATION TO OFFER STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFINANCE
14 STUDENT LOAN DEBT AT LOWER RATES.

15
16 WHEREAS, federal student loan debt has significantly
17 impacted America's economy by placing some borrowers in
18 financial peril and slowing economic recovery; and

19 WHEREAS, only mortgages rank ahead of student loans in
20 types of consumer debt; and

21 WHEREAS, according to the federal reserve bank of New
22 York, outstanding student loan debt has exceeded one trillion
23 dollars (\$1,000,000,000,000), surpassing total credit card
24 debt; and

25 WHEREAS, *Student Debt and the Class of 2013*, an initiative
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1 of the institute for college access and success, reports that
2 about seven in ten, or sixty-nine percent, of college seniors
3 who graduated from public or private nonprofit colleges in 2013
4 had student loan debt; and

5 WHEREAS, these borrowers owed an average of twenty-eight
6 thousand four hundred dollars (\$28,400) in college loans; and

7 WHEREAS, student loan debt is a drag on the economy,
8 affecting the ability of young adults incurring student loan
9 debt to purchase homes and vehicles, start small businesses or
10 fund retirement accounts; and

11 WHEREAS, congress passed the Bipartisan Student Loan
12 Certainty Act of 2013 to lower federal loan rates for new
13 borrowers in the 2013-2014 school year; and

14 WHEREAS, the act did not offer an option to refinance
15 student load debt for existing borrowers; and

16 WHEREAS, S.2432 has been introduced in the United States
17 senate to address this disparity and to allow eligible student
18 loan borrowers to refinance their high-interest federal loans;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would allow eligible
21 student loan borrowers with high-interest private loans to
22 refinance down to the rates offered to new federal borrowers in
23 the 2013-2014 school year under the Bipartisan Student Loan
24 Certainty Act of 2013; and

25 WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would impose a surtax on

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1 millionaires for the cost to refinance old loans; and

2 WHEREAS, the reduction of student loan debt is an
3 important factor in economic improvement;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that members of the New Mexico
6 congressional delegation be urged to support legislation to
7 offer students the opportunity to refinance student loan debt
8 at lower rates; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation and to
11 the members of the United States congress.