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SENATE MEMORIAL 59

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

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ENSURING
ACCESS TO STATE PROGRAMS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE LIMITED ENGLISH-
PROFICIENT.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of five majority-minority
states with a rich and diverse population, representing various
racial and ethnic groups, including emerging Asian, African,
Central American and Middle Eastern populations; and

WHEREAS, eliminating barriers for all New Mexico residents
will help end discriminatory practices toward New Mexicans who
are limited English-proficient, a goal that has not yet been
achieved; and

WHEREAS, true and equitable access to systems such as
health care, law enforcement and social service programs
creates a healthier New Mexico community overall; and

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1 WHEREAS, statewide implementation of limited English-
2 proficiency plans will increase the appropriate use of
3 interpreters and translators, thereby improving access toward
4 equitable and quality services for all New Mexicans; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the opportunity to become a
6 national leader in improving access to state services for
7 persons with limited English proficiency; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico affirms its commitment to Title VI of
9 the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, which protects people
10 from discrimination based on national origin in programs or
11 activities that receive federal financial assistance; and

12 WHEREAS, by supporting new arrivals in New Mexico who may
13 have limited English proficiency, the state can contribute
14 toward increased economic development; and

15 WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton recognized the
16 principles of nondiscrimination and inclusion embodied in Title
17 VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through his issuance of
18 Executive Order 13166; and

19 WHEREAS, Executive Order 13166 required all federal
20 agencies to develop plans to ensure that persons who are
21 limited English-proficient have meaningful access to federal
22 programs and activities;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be encouraged to issue an
25 executive order requiring all state agencies to develop and

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1 implement polices and plans to ensure that New Mexico residents
2 who are limited English-proficient have full and meaningful
3 access to state programs and activities; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the governor.

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