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HOUSE MEMORIAL 21

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio "Moe" Maestas

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
ESTABLISHING A FOUR-YEAR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION  
AT THE NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico school for the deaf is a land  
grant institution whose operation is provided for in the  
constitution of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico school for the deaf operates a  
thirty-acre campus that was granted by congress in the late  
1800s; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico school for the deaf already is  
under the purview of the higher education department and  
receives a percentage of its funding from that state  
department; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico school for the deaf has provided  
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1 bilingual residential educational and support services in  
2 American Sign Language and in English for deaf and hard-of-  
3 hearing students for more than one hundred years; and

4 WHEREAS, there is a need for post-secondary educational  
5 institutions to pursue twenty-first-century reform in public  
6 education, including comprehensive systems in deaf and special  
7 education; and

8 WHEREAS, the only post-secondary educational institution  
9 established to offer an educational program in both American  
10 Sign Language and English is Gallaudet university in  
11 Washington, D.C.; and

12 WHEREAS, many deaf and hard-of-hearing students in New  
13 Mexico may prefer to remain geographically close to their  
14 families after completion of high school and while pursuing  
15 post-secondary education; and

16 WHEREAS, many deaf or hard-of-hearing students outside of  
17 New Mexico may prefer to attend a bilingual post-secondary  
18 educational institution in a less densely populated area than  
19 Washington, D.C.; and

20 WHEREAS, the New Mexico school for the deaf has the campus  
21 and facilities to offer post-secondary education and thus  
22 provide greater educational opportunities for deaf and hard-of-  
23 hearing students in New Mexico and throughout the country; and

24 WHEREAS, the conversion to a post-secondary educational  
25 institution for deaf and hard-of-hearing students on the campus

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1 of the New Mexico school for the deaf could cultivate the  
2 untapped potential of the institution and of students both  
3 inside and outside New Mexico;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative  
6 education study committee be requested to convene a task force  
7 consisting of qualified staff from the public education  
8 department, the higher education department and experts in  
9 community engagement and educational reform to study the  
10 example of Gallaudet university for evaluating the feasibility  
11 of establishing the New Mexico school for the deaf as a  
12 bilingual public four-year post-secondary educational  
13 institution that embraces American Sign Language and English;  
14 and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the public  
17 education commission, the secretary of higher education, the  
18 legislative education study committee and the legislative  
19 finance committee.

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