

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 25

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Rebecca Dow and Alonzo Baldonado

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE BENEFITS AND FUNDING OF SCHOOL CHOICE.

WHEREAS, the ability to have school choice is about the
fundamental right of parents to have access to the educational
environment that serves their children best; and

WHEREAS, parents should have a wide range of high-quality
schools or educational options to choose from, such as
traditional public schools, public charter schools, private
schools or virtual learning; and

WHEREAS, in "School Choice: A Defining Social Justice
Issue", the late Bishop Joseph P. McFadden stated that for
parents, providing an education for their children is a moral
obligation, but that some parents, especially in low-income
families, have no choice but to send their children to a school

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 that may not be helping them reach their potential; and

2 WHEREAS, every child deserves access to a quality
3 education that provides the knowledge, skills and values
4 necessary to prepare them for a successful career and
5 fulfilling life; and

6 WHEREAS, because of where they live, many children are
7 assigned to schools that may not fit their unique needs and
8 learning styles; and

9 WHEREAS, a system of free public schools sufficient for
10 the education of, and open to, all children of school age
11 should be established and maintained; and

12 WHEREAS, to provide additional options for school choice,
13 the constitution of New Mexico would need to be amended, with
14 the approval of congress, to allow for the distribution of
15 public school funding to parents or legal guardians of school-
16 age children for home school or private school or for public
17 school distance education under certain circumstances; and

18 WHEREAS, in searching for ways to provide school choice,
19 New Mexico is urged to support equitable access to education
20 choices by supporting the ability to choose one or more schools
21 in one or more settings offered by one or more providers;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
24 education study committee be requested to study the benefits
25 and funding of school choice; and

.219936.2

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
2 study committee be requested to consider the feasibility of
3 amending the constitution of New Mexico, with the approval of
4 congress, to allow for the distribution of public school
5 funding to parents or legal guardians of school-age children
6 for home school or private school or for public school distance
7 education under certain circumstances; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
9 department, at least one parent of a private school student, at
10 least one parent of a public charter school student, at least
11 one parent of a home school student, at least one parent of a
12 traditional public school student, one representative from the
13 New Mexico association of nonpublic schools, one representative
14 from the New Mexico conference of Catholic bishops and one
15 representative from the American federation for children be
16 requested to assist the legislative education study committee
17 as required; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the chair
20 of the legislative education study committee.