SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 6

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO STUDY
ALTERNATIVES TO SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS FROM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND DEVELOP AN INTERVENTION PLAN THAT SCHOOL
DISTRICTS MUST FOLLOW PRIOR TO SUSPENDING OR EXPELLING
STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, students at risk are usually defined by researchers as those students likely to have low academic achievement and, eventually, to drop out of school and enter the job market as unskilled laborers unprepared for full citizenship in our highly technological culture; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that many students at risk enter school already lacking in linguistic skills and parental involvement; therefore, as these students move through the education system, many drop out and face futures without basic . 125682.1

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skills such as functional literacy; and

WHEREAS, suspension and expulsion are used too frequently by some schools as a remedy for aberrant behavior, and those actions do not have any educational benefit; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that students at risk not be denied the benefits of an education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public education be requested to study alternatives to suspension and expulsion of students from public schools and develop an intervention plan that school districts follow prior to suspending or expelling students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the intervention plan include course credit completion, community service and counseling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goal of the intervention plan be to create other options for the development and success of at-risk students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public education report its findings and recommendations to the legislative education study committee by October 1999; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction, the state board of education and the legislative education study committee.

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1999 February 9, 1999 Mr. President: Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 6 has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS. Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Nava, Chairman

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7 8	SENATE FLOOR AMENDMENT number to SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 6
9 10	Amendment sponsored by Senator Fernando R. Macias
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12	1. On page 2, line 12, after "students" insert "when the
13	severity of the infraction would warrant such an intervention
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10	AMENDMENT sponsored by SENATOR LOPEZ		
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19	1. On page 2, line 2, strike the words "too frequently".		
20	in on page 2, time 2, serine the words too frequency.		
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20	1. On page 14, line 1, strike the word "must".
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