

1 A MEMORIAL

2 ACKNOWLEDGING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HISPANIC EDUCATION ACT  
3 AND THE BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION ACT AND REQUESTING  
4 THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY HISPANIC  
5 AND BILINGUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

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7 WHEREAS, Hispanic students constitute the majority of  
8 the student population in New Mexico and face achievement  
9 gaps in academic performance, graduation rates and college  
10 and career readiness; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a rich bilingual and  
12 multicultural heritage, with a significant number of Hispanic  
13 students who are English learners requiring specialized  
14 instructional support and who may benefit from multicultural  
15 education and culturally responsive pedagogy; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico was the first state in the nation to  
17 enact laws to serve Hispanic, bilingual and multicultural  
18 students with the Hispanic Education Act and the Bilingual  
19 Multicultural Education Act, which promote educational  
20 equity, bilingual proficiency and culturally responsive  
21 education; and

22 WHEREAS, the Hispanic Education Act aims to improve  
23 educational outcomes and expand educational opportunities for  
24 Hispanic students by fostering collaboration among public  
25 schools, the public education department, the higher

1 education department and community organizations to address  
2 achievement gaps, increase graduation rates, foster parental  
3 involvement and increase post-secondary enrollment, retention  
4 and completion; and

5 WHEREAS, the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act aims  
6 to ensure equal educational opportunities by incorporating  
7 students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds into learning,  
8 by promoting bilingualism, cognitive development and  
9 appreciation of diverse languages and cultures and by  
10 providing discretion to local school boards and charter  
11 school governing bodies over program funding if they meet the  
12 outlined program needs; and

13 WHEREAS, the public education department oversees and  
14 reports on the implementation of bilingual and multicultural  
15 education programs and oversees the bilingual multicultural  
16 education advisory council that consists of educators, school  
17 leaders and higher education faculty; and

18 WHEREAS, the legislature has allocated funding for the  
19 Hispanic Education Act and the Bilingual Multicultural  
20 Education Act, but direct impact of the funding on students  
21 and their communities remains unclear; and

22 WHEREAS, the *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit highlighted  
23 Hispanic English-learning students' struggle with academic  
24 performance in reading and math, with those in bilingual  
25 programs performing only slightly better than their peers

1 outside these programs; and

2 WHEREAS, research emphasizes that well-implemented  
3 bilingual multicultural education strengthens executive  
4 function, expands career and higher education opportunities  
5 and improves academic achievement; and

6 WHEREAS, evaluating current programming for Hispanic  
7 and bilingual students and the funding structure and resource  
8 allocation for these programs would help inform legislative  
9 recommendations to strengthen educational outcomes for  
10 Hispanic and bilingual students by identifying successful  
11 initiatives and by maximizing the impact of the limited  
12 resources appropriated;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that this  
15 legislative body hereby acknowledge the significance of the  
16 Hispanic Education Act and the Bilingual Multicultural  
17 Education Act and request the legislative education study  
18 committee to study the implementation of those acts and the  
19 current state of Hispanic education and bilingual programs,  
20 including evaluating and identifying successful initiatives  
21 related to students' academic performance and the funding  
22 structures for Hispanic and bilingual education; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education  
24 study committee be requested to study Hispanic and bilingual  
25 education in collaboration with:

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- A. a representative group of youth;
- B. representatives of the student groups named in the *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit;
- C. educator preparation programs;
- D. educational leaders and educators with expertise in bilingual education;
- E. higher education institutions;
- F. members of the community; and
- G. the public education department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education study committee be requested to publish a report of its research and recommendations by December 31, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the legislative education study committee and the secretary of public education. \_\_\_\_\_