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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY
Joe Nestor Chavez

FOR THE NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FEDERAL IMPACT AID FOR UNITED
STATES COMMUNITIES ALONG THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER.

WHEREAS, the United States-Mexico border stretches
almost two thousand miles from Texas through California, and
the border region is defined as that area within one hundred
kilometers, or sixty-two and one-half miles, of the border;
and

WHEREAS, the socioeconomic condition of the border
region is characterized by explosive population growth, high
unemployment rates, low per capita income and extremely poor
living conditions; and

WHEREAS, if the border region, with its estimated eleven
million residents, were a separate state, it would rank last
in access to health care, second in deaths due to hepatitis,
third in deaths related to diabetes, first in the number of

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1 cases of tuberculosis, first in school children living in
2 poverty and last in per capita income; and

3 WHEREAS, along with the high health care costs for both
4 citizens and noncitizens caused by extreme poverty, states
5 and local governments must also grapple with the high costs
6 associated with criminal activity along the border, including
7 the costs associated with drug case referrals from United
8 States attorneys' offices, incarceration of illegal aliens
9 and prisoner transport; and

10 WHEREAS, southern New Mexico also must contend with a
11 population low in English proficiency, with eleven percent of
12 the Luna county population and ten percent of the Dona Ana
13 county population speaking English poorly or not at all,
14 compared to the state's statistic of only four percent
15 speaking English poorly or not at all; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico reportedly now ranks fiftieth out of
17 the fifty states in per capita income, in part because of the
18 high unemployment rates in the border region; and

19 WHEREAS, the negative fiscal impacts of NAFTA and border
20 population growth on state and local governments are much
21 greater so far than the promised economic benefits, and
22 governments in the border region need federal assistance in
23 the form of impact aid for education, health care, police
24 protection, criminal justice, water and wastewater and other
25 general government services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional

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1 delegation be requested to join the delegations from other
2 border states to introduce and pass legislation to provide
3 federal impact aid funding for border communities; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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