

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 11

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - 2ND SPECIAL SESSION, 2000

INTRODUCED BY

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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 cases of tuberculosis, first in school children living in

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1 poverty and last in per capita income; and

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

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

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

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

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
delegation be requested to join the delegations from other

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1 border states to introduce and pass legislation to provide
2 federal impact aid funding for border communities; and

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

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