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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Tsosie

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AN
ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE SYSTEM TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO
EMPLOY NON-DEGREED NATIVE AMERICANS AND OTHERS TO TEACH NATIVE
LANGUAGES AND CULTURE, ART, MUSIC AND SIMILAR DISCIPLINES.**

**WHEREAS, successful academic programs should include
challenging curricula that are validated by students' personal
experiences in the classroom; and**

**WHEREAS, Native American children begin their public
school education with strong cultural, linguistic and socio-
emotional experiences; and**

**WHEREAS, research shows that a hands-on holistic teaching
approach that integrates art, music and other disciplines in
the school curricula prepares all students, regardless of**

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1 ethnicity, for a diverse and complex world; and

2 WHEREAS, in addition to the arts, successful schools share
3 common characteristics that include the integration of
4 meaningful subject matter, test preparation and community
5 involvement into the general curriculum; and

6 WHEREAS, school districts with high percentages of Native
7 American students employ a majority of non-Native American
8 teachers who may require training within the Native American
9 cultural and linguistic context to provide culturally
10 significant educational experiences for Native American
11 students; and

12 WHEREAS, teaching of various Native American languages and
13 cultures within the public schools would provide validation and
14 enrichment of the Native American public school experience,
15 which would lead to higher student achievement; and

16 WHEREAS, many tribal members who are not licensed teachers
17 are able and available to teach the native languages and
18 cultures of their communities within the school environment and
19 many individuals who are not licensed teachers are able and
20 available to teach art, music and other disciplines;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state board of education develop
23 an alternative teaching licensure system and rules that allow
24 school districts to employ non-degreed Native Americans to
25 teach native languages and cultures of their respective

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1 communities and other non-degreed qualified individuals to
2 teach art, music and other disciplines as deemed necessary; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board of education
4 develop an alternative teaching licensure system and rules that
5 allow school districts to employ licensed Native American
6 teachers who possess New Mexico teaching licenses for any grade
7 level or discipline to teach native languages and cultures of
8 their respective communities and other licensed teachers who
9 possess New Mexico teaching licenses for any grade level or
10 discipline to teach art, music and other disciplines as deemed
11 necessary; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board of education
13 report its findings and recommendations to the legislative
14 education study committee by October 2001; and

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

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