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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 43

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SHARE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES
UNDER THE FEDERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.**

**WHEREAS, since its enactment in 1975, the federal
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has helped
millions of children with special needs to receive a quality
education and to develop to their full capacities; and**

**WHEREAS, the federal Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act has moved children with disabilities out of
institutions and into public school classrooms with their
peers; and**

**WHEREAS, the federal Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act has helped break down stereotypes and dispel**

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1 ignorance about people with disabilities thus improving the
2 quality of life and economic opportunity for millions of
3 Americans; and

4 WHEREAS, when the federal government enacted the
5 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, it promised to
6 fund up to forty percent of the average per special needs
7 pupil expenditure in public elementary and secondary schools
8 in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the federal government currently funds, on
10 average, less than fourteen percent of the average per special
11 needs pupil expenditure in public elementary and secondary
12 schools in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, local school districts and state government end
14 up bearing the largest share of the cost of special education
15 services; and

16 WHEREAS, the federal government's failure to adequately
17 fulfill its responsibility to special needs children
18 undermines public support for special education and creates
19 hardship for disabled children and their families;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the president and congress be urged,
22 prior to spending any surplus in the federal budget, to fund
23 forty percent of the average per special needs pupil
24 expenditure in public elementary and secondary schools in the
25 United States as promised under the federal Individuals with

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1 Disabilities Education Act to ensure that all children,
2 regardless of disability, receive a quality education and are
3 treated with the dignity and respect they deserve; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 sent to the president of the United States, the speaker of the
6 house of representatives of the United States, the president
7 of the United States senate and the members of the New Mexico
8 congressional delegation.

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