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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 10
47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY
John A. Heaton

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE STUDY
THE SUITABILITY OF THE STANDARDS USED BY THE PUBLIC EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT TO APPROVE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS AND
COLLEGES OF EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, school leadership is second only to classroom
instruction among all school-related factors that contribute to
student learning, according to current research; and

WHEREAS, research also shows that there are virtually no
documented instances of troubled schools being turned around
without intervention by a powerful instructional leader; and

WHEREAS, just as leaders can have a positive impact on
achievement, they also can have a marginal or, worse, a
negative impact; and

WHEREAS, one measure of the need for effective

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1 instructional leadership in New Mexico public schools is the
2 growing number of schools that the public education department
3 has designated as in need of improvement based on the standards
4 established by the legislature in the Assessment and
5 Accountability Act, which have increased from one hundred
6 thirty-two schools in 2004-2005 to two hundred thirty-eight in
7 2005-2006, with a projected increase to approximately three
8 hundred fifty-two in 2006-2007; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislature recognized the importance of
10 leadership in achieving school reform in 2003 when it elevated
11 the authority of superintendents to the role of chief executive
12 officers in their school districts and provided more authority
13 to principals in their schools; and

14 WHEREAS, recent research has called into question the
15 fitness of school leadership training programs at post-
16 secondary educational institutions throughout the United States
17 to prepare administrators for the challenging task of leading
18 schools and school districts to excellence; and

19 WHEREAS, through the responsibility placed upon it by
20 statute to license school administrators, the public education
21 department has the responsibility to approve educational
22 leadership programs at post-secondary institutions in New
23 Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, the public education department has approved
25 licensure, master's and doctoral degree programs in school

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1 leadership at nine public and private post-secondary
2 educational institutions and requires these programs to undergo
3 periodically a review for renewal;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
6 committee, in collaboration with the public education
7 department, the higher education department and instructional
8 leaders in the field, be requested to study the standards used
9 by the public education department to approve school leadership
10 programs to ensure that graduates have the knowledge and skills
11 necessary to manage instructional improvement and make a
12 positive impact on student achievement in the current school
13 environment; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be completed with
15 findings and recommendations by October 2006; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
18 committee, the secretary of public education and the secretary
19 of higher education for appropriate distribution.