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HOUSE MEMORIAL 57

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY ASSESSMENT
INSTRUMENTS FOR DETERMINING THE READING READINESS OF STUDENTS
IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SECOND GRADE.

WHEREAS, most students can succeed in school if they have
the basic skills in reading and writing that are appropriate
for their grade level; and

WHEREAS, research shows that children who read well in the
early grades are far more successful in later years and that
those who fall behind often stay behind in academic
achievement; and

WHEREAS, students who cannot read well are much more
likely to drop out of school and have limited career
opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the achievement gap between minority and

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1 mainstream children grows wider over the first four years of
2 school; and

3 WHEREAS, a longitudinal study indicates that children at
4 risk for reading difficulty who received substantial
5 instructional intervention combined with a research-based
6 comprehensive reading program progressed more rapidly than
7 other students and were reading at close to grade level four
8 years later; and

9 WHEREAS, research shows that children scoring low on
10 assessments of phonemic awareness and letter naming at the
11 beginning of first grade started school with lower skills, made
12 less progress and fell farther behind as they progressed from
13 first through fourth grade; and

14 WHEREAS, reading readiness screening assessments are
15 necessary to identify the reading skills of children early in
16 their education to ensure that they are provided with
17 appropriate learning and intervention strategies;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public
20 education department be requested to study assessment
21 instruments that determine the early reading readiness of
22 students in kindergarten and that incorporate a component to
23 monitor the progress of literacy skills of students in first
24 and second grades; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education

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1 department be requested to study successful instructional
2 strategies that ensure a satisfactory reading readiness level
3 for kindergarten students and that improve the literacy and
4 skill levels for students in first and second grades; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
6 department report its findings and recommendations to the
7 legislative education study committee by December 2006; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the secretary of public education and to the
10 director of the legislative education study committee for
11 appropriate distribution.