

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

2 47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Nancy Rodriguez

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE STUDY OF THE COMMUNICATION ACCESS TO DEMOCRATIC
12 AND POLITICAL PROCESSES FOR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING PERSONS.

13
14 WHEREAS, there are approximately twenty million persons,
15 or eight and six-tenths percent of the total United States
16 population three years or older, who are deaf and hard-of-
17 hearing persons; and

18 WHEREAS, there are approximately one hundred ninety
19 thousand persons in the state of New Mexico who are deaf and
20 hard-of-hearing persons; and

21 WHEREAS, one percent of these persons use sign language;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the number of people with any degree of hearing
24 loss continues to increase; and

25 WHEREAS, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons often do not

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1 vote or register to vote due to a lack of availability of equal
2 communication access that results in their inability to
3 intelligently decide on the issues; and

4 WHEREAS, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons are
5 unintentionally left out of the democratic process because of
6 barriers in communication; and

7 WHEREAS, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons crave to be
8 empowered and to participate equally in the democratic process
9 and all other aspects of community life; and

10 WHEREAS, the general population needs education on deaf
11 and hard-of-hearing communication access needs; and

12 WHEREAS, the voices of the deaf and the hard of hearing
13 need to be heard in the democratic process;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commission for deaf and hard-of-
16 hearing persons and the office of the secretary of state be
17 requested to collaborate on a study to establish communication
18 access to ensure full participation in the democratic process
19 for all deaf and hard-of-hearing New Mexicans; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study determine how to
21 provide more interpreters at political events and closed
22 captioning on political television advertisements; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study result in
24 recommendations to be reported no later than January 30, 2007
25 to the appropriate legislative committee as determined by the

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1 New Mexico legislative council; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing
4 persons and the secretary of state.

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