

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 9

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Steve Komadina

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ENSURE THAT
12 TEACHERS HAVE THE RIGHT AND FREEDOM TO TEACH BIOLOGICAL ORIGINS
13 OBJECTIVELY.

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15 WHEREAS, teaching some aspects of evolutionary theory
16 causes controversy; and

17 WHEREAS, scientific theories of biological origins have
18 implications that can challenge or support the personal
19 religious or philosophical beliefs of students and their
20 parents; and

21 WHEREAS, most parents favor allowing teachers to discuss
22 both the strengths and weaknesses of evolutionary theory when
23 biological origins are taught; and

24 WHEREAS, many credentialed scientists challenge certain
25 aspects of evolutionary theory; and

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1 WHEREAS, existing state law does not expressly protect a
2 teacher's right to objectively present scientific critiques of
3 evolutionary theory; and

4 WHEREAS, existing state law does not expressly assure
5 parents that their children will be objectively informed of
6 scientific information relevant to biological origins; and

7 WHEREAS, existing state law does not adequately protect
8 the rights of students to subscribe to a particular position on
9 biological origins; and

10 WHEREAS, the trust that parents place in public education
11 compels the legislature to take special interest in this area
12 of public education;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
15 requested to ensure that when a theory of biological origins is
16 taught, public school teachers in New Mexico have the right and
17 freedom to objectively inform students of any scientific
18 information that is relevant to both the strengths and
19 weaknesses of that theory; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
21 department be requested to ensure that teachers are not
22 reassigned, terminated, disciplined or otherwise discriminated
23 against for objectively informing students of scientific
24 information relevant to both the strengths and weaknesses of a
25 theory of biological origins; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
2 department be requested to ensure that students are encouraged
3 to critically analyze scientific information and allowed the
4 right and freedom to reach their own conclusions about
5 biological origins; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
7 department be requested to ensure that no student is penalized
8 in any way for subscribing to a particular position on
9 biological origins; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the public education department for further
12 distribution to school districts.