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HOUSE MEMORIAL 49

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas A. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS AND DECLARING MARCH 11, 2011 "SCHOOL STUDENT TRANSPORTATION DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, transportation to and from school is not merely a convenience, it is a critical component of every successful educational enterprise; and

WHEREAS, ensuring access to the school bus is the first step to ensuring a successful experience for a child in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, school buses provide an estimated ten billion student trips each year, and, every day, more than four hundred eighty thousand school buses transport twenty-six million children to and from schools and school-related activities; and

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1 WHEREAS, school buses are among the safest vehicles on the
2 road, due, in large part, to the dedication and training of
3 school bus drivers; and

4 WHEREAS, in the early 1920s, the first training manuals
5 for school bus drivers were created, and in the 1970s, the
6 national highway traffic safety administration issued standards
7 for school bus driver training; and

8 WHEREAS, in the early 1990s, the federal highway
9 administration issued a requirement that all school bus drivers
10 possess a commercial driver's license; and

11 WHEREAS, in order to obtain a commercial driver's license,
12 school bus drivers must pass a knowledge and skills test and a
13 biennial physical exam and are subject to random drug and
14 alcohol testing; and

15 WHEREAS, state and federal laws require that criminal
16 background checks be conducted on all potential school bus
17 drivers; and

18 WHEREAS, driving a bus and satisfying statutory
19 requirements are only the start of the responsibilities faced
20 by school bus drivers; and

21 WHEREAS, school bus drivers must personally conduct a
22 physical check of various vehicle systems to ensure the safety
23 of the vehicle and its readiness prior to transporting
24 children; and

25 WHEREAS, daily, school bus drivers are faced with the

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1 discipline of children and medical or other emergencies, and
2 they must be prepared to attend to the unique requirements of
3 students with special needs; and

4 WHEREAS, because children generally ride the same bus
5 every day, the school bus driver often becomes a trusted
6 friend, and, for parents, the school bus driver is the person
7 to whom they entrust the safety of their children; and

8 WHEREAS, school bus drivers must be ever attentive to the
9 challenges of the road, including inattentive and distracted
10 motorists, disruptive students, inappropriate and even illegal
11 activities on the bus and myriad other situations; and

12 WHEREAS, school bus drivers are deserving of the highest
13 commendation for the outstanding job they perform every school
14 day in providing safe transportation to New Mexico's children;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the importance
17 and value of New Mexico school bus drivers be recognized and
18 that March 11, 2011 be declared "School Student Transportation
19 Day" in the house of representatives; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the school transportation bureau of the public
22 education department and the New Mexico school transportation
23 association.