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SENATE MEMORIAL 13

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

INTRODUCED BY

Dede Feldman

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT, THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZE THE IMPACT AND POTENTIAL OF KESHET DANCE COMPANY AND COLLABORATE WITH THE ORGANIZATION TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH AND INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF KESHET DANCE COMPANY.

WHEREAS, Keshet dance company has been honored by First Lady Michelle Obama and the president's committee on the arts and humanities as a recipient of the prestigious 2009 "Coming Up Taller Award"; and

WHEREAS, Keshet dance company provides educational services to children, youth and families throughout New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Keshet dance company provides socialization and

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1 esteem-building skills through dance for homeless children and  
2 youth in partnership with the Title 1 homeless project; and

3 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company teaches math, literacy and  
4 conflict resolution skills through dance within the state's  
5 youth diagnostic and development center; and

6 WHEREAS, children who participate in the program increase  
7 math and literacy test scores by more than fifty percent based  
8 on pre-test and post-test scores and decrease conflicts by more  
9 than twenty percent compared to nonparticipating students; and

10 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company operates gender-specific  
11 programs for female inmates at the youth diagnostic and  
12 development center utilizing dance to instill a positive,  
13 healthy attitude in females who have previously been victims of  
14 physical and sexual abuse; and

15 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company operates a pre-release and  
16 post-release program for incarcerated juveniles who are leaving  
17 the youth diagnostic and development center, which program  
18 provides ongoing mentorship and participation throughout the  
19 parole and reintegration process and has tracked a zero percent  
20 recidivism rate to date for participating juveniles; and

21 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company provides mentorship and  
22 therapeutic programs through dance for youth and adults with  
23 physical and developmental disabilities; and

24 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company employs a full-time  
25 company of professional dance artists and educators, and the

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1 company tours statewide, nationally and internationally,  
2 drawing audiences and artists from throughout the nation and  
3 the world to New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, the president's committee on the arts and  
5 humanities has formally recognized the transformative impact  
6 that Keshet dance company has on communities in New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company has become a cultural  
8 institution serving all of New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislature is committed to improving the  
10 lives of children, youth and families; and

11 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company is well-respected both  
12 locally and nationally;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
14 OF NEW MEXICO that the cultural affairs department, the  
15 economic development department, the tourism department, the  
16 public education department and the children, youth and  
17 families department be requested to work with Keshet dance  
18 company to further the goals of the organization by working  
19 with incarcerated and paroled youth, homeless youth,  
20 individuals with physical and developmental disabilities and  
21 professional artists and educators from throughout New Mexico  
22 to improve the lives of New Mexico residents, create new jobs,  
23 increase revenues for the state and attract and retain  
24 audiences and individuals from around the world to New Mexico;  
25 and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
2 transmitted to the secretaries of cultural affairs, economic  
3 development, tourism, public education and children, youth and  
4 families.

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