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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING NEW MEXICANS TO ESTABLISH, RESPECT AND HONOR A
STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS.

WHEREAS, students have the right to a learning
environment in which discrimination in all forms is not
tolerated by the administration, school security or students,
and in which students are encouraged to participate in
antidiscrimination and cultural proficiency training that
promotes principles of equality, engages students in a
culturally sensitive manner and supports a culturally
sensitive curriculum; and

WHEREAS, students have the right to extracurricular and
after-school programs and the means and support to access
them and to be able to request to form new clubs that fit
their interests because these programs and activities are
important mechanisms through which students prepare for life
after high school, including improving their ability to
access higher education and otherwise develop their minds,
talents and perspectives; and

WHEREAS, students have the right to information,
resources and support to prepare them for life after high
school and should be encouraged to pursue higher education
and not be discouraged based on any discriminatory factors so
that students who choose to pursue college have access to

1 college readiness counselors to assist them in their
2 transition into higher education, and students who choose to
3 enter the work force should be prepared, through information,
4 training and job placement assistance, to make that
5 transition; and

6 WHEREAS, students have the right to equitable school and
7 classroom environments, in which classroom sizes are small
8 and buildings and materials are in good condition; in which
9 creative approaches to teaching are encouraged; in which
10 respect and open communication among parents, teachers,
11 community organizations and students are encouraged; in which
12 building strong intergenerational relationships is valued;
13 and in which schools are fully funded in order to achieve
14 these goals; and

15 WHEREAS, students have the right to affordable and
16 nutritious food in the school environment because proper
17 nutrition is essential to the development of physical,
18 emotional and intellectual well-being; and

19 WHEREAS, students have the right to bilingual education
20 and bilingual after-school programs, to integrated
21 multilingual classrooms and to speak any language while in
22 school so that they can become fluent speakers and thinkers
23 in the languages important to their development as fully
24 rounded human beings who are able to excel in their cultural,
25 familial and economic environments; and

1 WHEREAS, students have the right to a learning
2 environment that is free of cruel and unusual punishment,
3 including the use of excessive force by security; have the
4 rights to freedom of speech and of the press; and have the
5 right to petition and peacefully assemble with the purpose of
6 improving the school, classroom and learning environments;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, students have the right to due process, to be
9 considered innocent until proven guilty and to be free of
10 searches of personal property by security, administration or
11 staff without reasonable cause and to have their parents
12 notified if such searches occur; and

13 WHEREAS, students have the right to schools that seek
14 alternatives to police presence, that are free of immigration
15 enforcement, that are free from the criminalization of youth,
16 that seek alternatives to suspension and expulsion policies
17 and in which students are given a clean slate each year; and

18 WHEREAS, students have the right to access violence- and
19 gang-prevention, peer-based mediation and intervention
20 programs on campus; and

21 WHEREAS, students have the right and the opportunity to
22 organize themselves and be represented by their peers in
23 important school decision-making processes; and

24 WHEREAS, students have the right to self-representation
25 in district meetings, whether through a committee or a

1 self-started group, without being tokenized or dismissed due
2 to their youth, and they have the right to notification of
3 district and staff meeting times and places and to organize
4 collectively when issues arise that affect the entire student
5 body; and

6 WHEREAS, students have the right to be afforded space to
7 dialogue safely about aspects of their learning experience
8 and to understand how the school budget works and is
9 allocated; and

10 WHEREAS, students have the right to access a copy of the
11 student bill of rights and to seek to amend this document
12 when necessary such that when concluded, those amendments
13 will improve the learning environment;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that New Mexicans be requested to
16 establish, respect and honor a student bill of rights; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
18 study committee, in consultation with the public education
19 department, be requested to convene a task force of students
20 and student advocates to prepare a draft student bill of
21 rights, perform a yearly examination of the student bill of
22 rights and make recommendations for legislation that will
23 help to realize the aspirations articulated in the bill of
24 rights; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
2 committee and the secretary of public education. _____

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