

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE, IN  
3 COOPERATION WITH THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE  
4 HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
5 ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM THAT MATCHES COLLEGE STUDENTS AS  
6 MENTORS TO THIRD GRADE STUDENTS IN READING.

7  
8 WHEREAS, studies show that children who are struggling  
9 to read in third grade are four times more likely to drop out  
10 or not complete high school, compared with classmates who are  
11 proficient readers; and

12 WHEREAS, studies also show that only twenty-one percent  
13 of New Mexico fourth graders actually read at the fourth  
14 grade level; and

15 WHEREAS, research indicates that New Mexico college  
16 graduation rates are fifteen percent below national averages  
17 and certain scholarship programs have college graduation  
18 rates as low as fourteen percent in six years, leaving  
19 students with no college degrees and mounting college debt;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the economic impact of a failing educational  
22 system is often reflected through a lowered tax base, rising  
23 costs of social welfare and criminal justice, lowered  
24 standards of living and high levels of anxiety regarding  
25 having enough food to eat, appropriate housing and good

1 health; and

2 WHEREAS, success in learning to read by the end of grade  
3 three allows for a lifetime ability of reading to learn,  
4 rather than learning to read, and of accessing the benefits  
5 of the educational system; and

6 WHEREAS, an international model of mentoring and  
7 tutoring built into a program called "MATCH New Mexico" has  
8 demonstrated success in bringing together college student  
9 mentors with at-risk third graders in a one-to-one  
10 relationship; and

11 WHEREAS, the international model, as adapted in  
12 twenty-five countries, has shown positive benefits for both  
13 mentors and their mentees, including improved academic  
14 performance, the ability to meet graduation requirements more  
15 efficiently, a heightened motivation to study and the  
16 addition of improved social status, higher levels of  
17 self-esteem and civic involvement; and

18 WHEREAS, this international model of mentoring and  
19 tutoring has seen success in the Santa Fe public schools and  
20 is currently being implemented in the Albuquerque public  
21 schools, with plans for future implementation in the Taos  
22 public schools; and

23 WHEREAS, financial support for college students through  
24 state scholarships and stipends is reinvested in the  
25 community when college students offer this unique gift of

1 social commitment;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study  
4 committee, in cooperation with the public education  
5 department and the higher education department, be requested  
6 to establish a work group to report on the feasibility of  
7 creating an innovative program with mentoring and tutoring  
8 third grade students by college student mentors; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group generate a  
10 feasibility study, including a needs assessment,  
11 implementation plan and a fiscal impact analysis with  
12 measurable outcome data applicable to the various populations  
13 of New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be composed  
15 of equal numbers of college students who are residents of  
16 New Mexico representing community-based colleges and  
17 universities in the state, together with leaders from the  
18 public and private sectors representing science, industry,  
19 education, community organizations, foundations, government,  
20 health and welfare programs; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education  
22 study committee, in cooperation with the public education  
23 department, the higher education department and the work  
24 group, report the results of the study and their  
25 recommendations to the legislature and the governor before

1 the 2016 legislative session; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study  
4 committee and the respective secretaries of public education  
5 and higher education. \_\_\_\_\_

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