

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER
3 ENSURING ACCESS TO STATE PROGRAMS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE LIMITED
4 ENGLISH-PROFICIENT.

5
6 WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of five majority-minority
7 states with a rich and diverse population, representing
8 various racial and ethnic groups, including emerging Asian,
9 African, Central American and Middle Eastern populations; and

10 WHEREAS, eliminating barriers for all New Mexico
11 residents will help end discriminatory practices toward New
12 Mexicans who are limited English-proficient, a goal that has
13 not yet been achieved; and

14 WHEREAS, true and equitable access to systems such as
15 health care, law enforcement and social service programs
16 creates a healthier New Mexico community overall; and

17 WHEREAS, statewide implementation of limited
18 English-proficiency plans will increase the appropriate use
19 of interpreters and translators, thereby improving access
20 toward equitable and quality services for all New Mexicans;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the opportunity to become a
23 national leader in improving access to state services for
24 persons with limited English proficiency; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico affirms its commitment to Title VI

1 of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, which protects
2 people from discrimination based on national origin in
3 programs or activities that receive federal financial
4 assistance; and

5 WHEREAS, by supporting new arrivals in New Mexico who
6 may have limited English proficiency, the state can
7 contribute toward increased economic development; and

8 WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton recognized the
9 principles of nondiscrimination and inclusion embodied in
10 Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through his issuance
11 of Executive Order 13166; and

12 WHEREAS, Executive Order 13166 required all federal
13 agencies to develop plans to ensure that persons who are
14 limited English-proficient have meaningful access to federal
15 programs and activities;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be encouraged to issue
18 an executive order requiring all state agencies to develop
19 and implement polices and plans to ensure that New Mexico
20 residents who are limited English-proficient have full and
21 meaningful access to state programs and activities; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the governor. _____