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SENATE MEMORIAL 29

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Jacob R. Candelaria

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR CIVIC VALUES GENE FRANCHINI HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the center for civic values is a New Mexico nonprofit corporation organized in 1962 by the New Mexico state bar foundation to provide education and resources for public participation in the law; and

WHEREAS, for more than forty years, the center for civic values has coordinated, facilitated, supported and encouraged a high school mock trial program, an educational initiative for high schools statewide that teaches students about the law, the legal system and civics, now known as the Gene Franchini high school mock trial program; and

WHEREAS, mock trials are dynamic and rewarding skill- and character-building academic and social experiences for high

1 school students; and

2 WHEREAS, high school students participating in mock trials
3 report increased skills in critical thinking, responsible
4 decision making, research, teamwork and public speaking; and

5 WHEREAS, participating students also report having better
6 grades and an improved ability to manage their time; and

7 WHEREAS, licensed attorneys donate their time to students
8 by coaching teams and mentoring the high school students; and

9 WHEREAS, each year hundreds of New Mexico high school
10 students and their teacher advisors and attorney coaches spend
11 several weeks researching, studying, preparing and presenting
12 hypothetical courtroom trials; and

13 WHEREAS, high school students participating in mock trials
14 advocate in the mock cases as attorneys, witnesses and
15 courtroom artists; and

16 WHEREAS, state and federal court judges and licensed
17 attorneys volunteer to judge the mock trial competitions,
18 serving as presiding judges who make evidentiary rulings and
19 score the performance and presentation of the students
20 competing; and

21 WHEREAS, each March, the top teams advance to the state
22 finals in Albuquerque, with the winner going on to represent
23 the state at the national championship, held each year in a
24 different United States city; and

25 WHEREAS, in May 2012, the center for civic values hosted

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1 the national high school mock trial championship, drawing about
2 six hundred students competing in the championship from other
3 states, South Korea, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands,
4 Australia and Ireland; and

5 WHEREAS, the high school mock trial teams from New Mexico
6 have competed successfully in the national championships, with
7 a team from Albuquerque academy winning the national
8 championship in 2012 and 2013; and

9 WHEREAS, this program is beloved by thousands of former
10 high school students who have participated in it, thousands of
11 parents who have seen the benefits of the program to their
12 children and hundreds of teachers, lawyers and judges who
13 volunteer their time and expertise to work with the student
14 teams; and

15 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico school of law
16 recognizes that, by hosting this program in the law school, it
17 offers an opportunity for law students to mentor high school
18 students, thereby building the law students' skills and
19 reinforcing a culture of giving back to local communities;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
21 OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the more than forty years of
22 outstanding work by the center for civic values to implement
23 the Gene Franchini high school mock trial program and that it
24 support the continuance of this cherished program; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the center for civic values, the state bar of
2 New Mexico, the university of New Mexico school of law and the
3 secretary of public education.

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