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SENATE MEMORIAL 31

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT REFORM OF NEW MEXICO'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
INCLUDE LEARNING ABOUT ACEQUIAS AND LAND GRANTS AS PART OF A
MULTICULTURAL AND EQUITABLE EDUCATION FOR DIVERSE STUDENT
POPULATIONS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to cultures and communities
with diverse student populations that are deserving of an
equitable, sufficient and meaningful education; and

WHEREAS, because of limited resources, schools are not
able to integrate learning about cultural resources and assets
in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, decades of inadequate resources for schools have
resulted in racial, economic and educational disparities that
rank among the worst in the country; and

WHEREAS, in a landmark decision, a court ruled in the

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1 *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* case that the state must
2 take immediate steps to support students; and

3 WHEREAS, the decision also highlighted the need for
4 multicultural and multilingual learning opportunities that
5 respond to cultures, languages and heritages of diverse student
6 populations; and

7 WHEREAS, acequias and land grants are vital parts of New
8 Mexico's culture, history and social fabric and continue to be
9 relevant in community development in rural communities
10 throughout the state; and

11 WHEREAS, culturally relevant education in New Mexico
12 should include the study of the historical development of
13 acequia and land grant communities and the contemporary issues
14 and challenges they face; and

15 WHEREAS, research shows that a multicultural and
16 multilingual approach to education allows students to maintain
17 their language and cultural identity, which contributes to
18 their well-being and performance in school;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that education about acequias and land grants be
21 part of a broader transformation of education in New Mexico to
22 ensure sufficient and equitable education for diverse student
23 populations; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
25 department be requested to develop methods to integrate

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1 learning about acequias and land grants into the curriculum and
2 that the higher education department be requested to train and
3 develop educators for multicultural curriculum development; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the center for the education
5 and study of diverse populations and the Ben Lujan leadership
6 and public policy institute at New Mexico highlands university
7 be requested to convene educators, community leaders and
8 stakeholders to develop and provide recommendations to the
9 public education department and higher education department on
10 how to reshape New Mexico's educational system to include a
11 culturally relevant curriculum that includes acequias and land
12 grants; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico acequia
14 association, acequia commission, land grant council and New
15 Mexico land grant consejo be requested to develop and provide
16 recommendations to the public education department and higher
17 education department for integration of acequias and land
18 grants into multicultural curriculum development; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the secretary
21 of higher education, the president of New Mexico highlands
22 university, the chair of the acequia commission, the executive
23 director of the New Mexico acequia association, the chair of
24 the land grant council and the president of the New Mexico land
25 grant consejo.

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