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HOUSE MEMORIAL 32

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Pamelya Herndon and Christine Trujillo

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE, IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, THE NATIONAL
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-NEW MEXICO AND CERTAIN EDUCATORS, TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ENHANCE
TEACHING OF MULTICULTURAL HISTORICAL EVENTS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a multicultural state that is rich
with history; and

WHEREAS, effective school leadership includes providing a
learning environment that enhances a student's learning of the
many diverse cultures that permeate New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of incidents that occur within
the state where victims are targeted because of their religion,
ethnic origin or race; and

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1 WHEREAS, classroom teachers are in the best position to
2 help students address and understand issues that arise out of
3 hatred, bigotry and intolerance; and

4 WHEREAS, classroom teachers are looking for ways to
5 appropriately teach lessons that delve into human behavior and
6 examine basic human issues; and

7 WHEREAS, advancing student learning and equitable outcomes
8 requires educational leaders to have standards to guide their
9 preparation for developing and expanding their skills, as well
10 as a foundational knowledge of historical events and a
11 comprehensive understanding of the awareness of the complexity
12 of these historical events that could result in improvements in
13 a climate of understanding, tolerance and appreciation of
14 various cultures;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
17 education study committee, in collaboration with the public
18 education department, the department of finance and
19 administration and the national education association-New
20 Mexico, be requested to convene a task force, including
21 educators chosen by the task force, to develop a comprehensive
22 plan to enhance teaching of multicultural historical events;
23 and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
25 develop standards on teaching courses that involve human rights

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1 issues with particular attention to the study of genocide,
2 slavery and the Holocaust; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
4 include in the comprehensive plan recommendations on how to
5 incorporate the standards developed into existing courses
6 currently in middle school and high school curricula; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
8 design instructional materials that:

9 A. prepare students to confront and understand acts
10 of mass violence and to reflect on the causes of related
11 historical events;

12 B. develop students' respect for cultural diversity
13 and help students gain insight into the importance of the
14 protection of international human rights for all people;

15 C. communicate the impact of personal
16 responsibility, civic engagement and societal responses;

17 D. stimulate students' reflection on the roles and
18 responsibilities of citizens in democratic societies to combat
19 misinformation, indifference and discrimination through
20 development of critical thinking skills and through tools of
21 resistance such as the historical use of protest, petition,
22 reform and celebration;

23 E. provide students with opportunities to put into
24 context and analyze patterns of human behavior by individuals
25 and groups;

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1 F. enable students to understand the ramifications
2 of prejudice, racism and stereotyping;

3 G. provide students with a foundation for examining
4 the history of discrimination in New Mexico; and

5 H. explore the various mechanisms of transitional
6 and restorative justice that help humanity move forward in the
7 aftermath of genocide; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that school entities be encouraged
9 to use any appropriate public or private materials, personnel
10 and other resources in developing and implementing the program
11 of instruction; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that up to ten schools from
13 throughout New Mexico be requested to participate in a pilot
14 program to determine the effectiveness of the teaching methods
15 used in implementing the recommendations of the task force; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force be
17 requested to include Holocaust and social justice education
18 leaders from New Mexico to work with trainers from the echoes
19 and reflections organization; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force be
21 requested to provide options to design the pilot program and to
22 oversee its implementation and effectiveness in the pilot
23 classrooms; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
25 study committee be requested to report task force findings,

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1 recommendations and pilot program options by December 31, 2022;
2 and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the chair of the legislative education study
5 committee, the secretary of public education, the secretary of
6 finance and administration and the president of the national
7 education association-New Mexico.

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