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SENATE MEMORIAL 4

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

MICHAEL S. SANCHEZ

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTION TO UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION MADE BY TEACHING ASSISTANTS AND RESEARCH ASSISTANTS.

WHEREAS, the institutions of higher education in the state have many graduate students in a variety of programs; and

WHEREAS, many of those graduate students are employed, by contract, with the university as teaching assistants or research assistants to provide tenured professors with assistance on academic projects, and to teach lower-level curricula to undergraduate students; and

WHEREAS, these students are generally employed for the entire academic year for a salary of about eight thousand dollars (\$8,000), making it difficult to obtain health insurance, at a time when many graduate students who are

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1 teaching assistants or research assistants are married and have
2 families; and

3 WHEREAS, the university does not include health benefits in
4 any contractual agreements with these students, who provide the
5 university a large savings by teaching classes that qualified
6 faculty members would have to teach but for their presence, at a
7 cost much, much greater to the university than an annual eight
8 thousand dollar (\$8,000) stipend;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that it support efforts to provide graduate
11 students across the state who are either teaching assistants or
12 research assistants at their respective institutions of higher
13 education with health insurance benefits, either paid in full by
14 the university or with some contribution toward the policy also
15 made by those students; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the issue of health insurance
17 benefits for graduate students who are teaching assistants or
18 research assistants be reviewed by all institutions of higher
19 education in the state who employ these students, and that the
20 status of this issue be reported to the appropriate interim
21 legislative committee no later than October 1, 1997; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be sent
23 to the presidents of the university of New Mexico, New Mexico
24 state university, New Mexico institute of mining and technology,
25 western New Mexico university, eastern New Mexico university and

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1 New Mexico highlands university.

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1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1997
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5 February 27, 1997
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7 Mr. President:
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9 Your RULES COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred
10

11 SENATE MEMORIAL 4
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13 has had it under consideration and reports same with
14 recommendation that it DO PASS.
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16 Respectfully submitted,
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21 Gloria Howes, Chairman
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25 Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

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Date _____

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

No: 0

Excused: Aragon, Gorham

Absent: None

SMD04RU1