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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 63

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

INTRODUCED BY

DELORES C. WRIGHT

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE HOW TO ADDRESS THE STUDENT
DROPOUT PROBLEM, TO DEFINE ZERO TOLERANCE AND TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THESE
STUDENTS.**

**WHEREAS, students who drop out of school do not have
alternative educational opportunities available to them; and**

**WHEREAS, school districts should direct money toward
creating alternative educational opportunities for student
dropouts; and**

**WHEREAS, students are expelled or suspended pursuant to a
subjective definition of zero tolerance; and**

**WHEREAS, a student has the right to understand clearly
the basis for expulsion or suspension; and**

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WHEREAS, students who drop out or are expelled need alternative educational opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public education study options to keep students from dropping out of the public school system and define zero tolerance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public education track the destinations of students who drop out or are expelled and study the feasibility of having school boards establish alternative educational programs for these students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the state department of public education and to the state board of education.