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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 59

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999**

INTRODUCED BY

Ben D. Altamirano

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO STUDY  
THE METHODS CURRENTLY USED TO TEACH READING AND TO ENCOURAGE  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO USE PHONICS IN THE TEACHING OF READING.

WHEREAS, research has established the importance of early  
reading success and learning to read is an essential  
foundation for success in school, employment and life; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that children who are not  
reading at grade level by third grade are unlikely to catch up  
to their peers in reading skills; and

WHEREAS, according to one reading researcher, reading is  
a learned skill that involves developing phonological  
awareness, which is the understanding that sounds heard in  
spoken words correspond to letters seen in print, linking  
sounds with specific letters, becoming a faster reader by

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1 automatically associating symbols and sounds and concentrating  
2 on the meanings of words; and

3 WHEREAS, studies conducted over past years indicate that  
4 children who have the hardest time learning to read are those  
5 least able to connect letters with sounds; and

6 WHEREAS, young readers must develop accurate word  
7 recognition, and research verifies that they are much more  
8 likely to do so if they receive reading instruction that  
9 includes phonics; and

10 WHEREAS, research indicates that strong phonological  
11 skills lead children to demonstrate effective reading  
12 comprehension and expanded vocabulary skills in third grade  
13 and beyond; and

14 WHEREAS, it is necessary for teacher preparation programs  
15 to focus on preparing pre-service teachers with knowledge and  
16 skills necessary to work with children in primary grades so  
17 they can learn to read;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public  
20 education study the methods and approaches currently being  
21 used to teach children to read in primary grades and encourage  
22 school districts to use a balance of strategies that develop  
23 more phonological skills and phonemic awareness in the early  
24 grades; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of

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1 public education study the level of knowledge of first-year  
2 teachers of primary grades to teach phonemic awareness,  
3 concepts of print and the letter-sound relationships through a  
4 systematic sequential approach; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the state department of public education and  
7 the teacher preparation programs.

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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999  
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5  
6 March 4, 1999

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8 Mr. President:

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10 Your RULES COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

11  
12 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 59

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14 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
15 recommendation that it DO PASS, and thence referred to the  
16 EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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18 Respectfully submitted,  
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24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Gloria Howes, Co-Chair

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1 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not

2 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

3 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

4

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6 Date \_\_\_\_\_

7

8

9 The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

10 Yes: 5

11 No: 0

12 Excused: Altamirano, Campos, Romero

13 Absent: None

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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999  
3  
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6 March 3, 1999  
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8 Mr. Speaker:  
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10 Your APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, to  
11 whom has been referred  
12

13 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 2, as amended  
14  
15 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

17 Respectfully submitted,  
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22 Max Coll, Chairman  
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1999

Page 7

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 12 For 0 Against

Yes: 12

Excused: Abeyta, Coll, Larrañaga, Marquardt, Pearce

Absent: None

J: \99BillsWP\sj 059

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1999

March 10, 1999

Mr. President:

Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 59

has had it under consideration and reports same with  
recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cynthia Nava, Chairman

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against

Yes: 7

No: 0

Excused: Adair, Jennings, Pinto

Absent: None

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