

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
3 CLASS SIZE REDUCTIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE
4 CLASSES.

5
6 WHEREAS, fewer than one in four students in New Mexico
7 scored "proficient" in reading and math on the national
8 assessment of educational progress tests in 2022, ranking New
9 Mexico the lowest in the nation for student reading and math
10 proficiency; and

11 WHEREAS, a large proportion of kindergarten through
12 twelfth grade students in New Mexico are at-risk, with one in
13 four children living in poverty and higher than national
14 averages of students identified as English language learners
15 or students with disabilities; and

16 WHEREAS, the percentages of kindergarten through twelfth
17 grade economically disadvantaged students, English language
18 learners, Native American students and students with
19 disabilities scoring "proficient" on statewide assessment
20 tests in New Mexico continue to fall below statewide
21 proficiency averages; and

22 WHEREAS, kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers in
23 New Mexico and across the nation report a marked impact of
24 the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic on students' social,
25 emotional and behavioral development, resulting in increased

1 disruptions of instructional time and demands on teachers and
2 support staff; and

3 WHEREAS, a finding in the consolidated *Yazzie/Martinez*
4 *v. State of New Mexico* lawsuit pointed out the critical need
5 for highly effective educators to serve kindergarten through
6 twelfth grade students with disabilities, Native American
7 students, economically disadvantaged students and English
8 language learners; and

9 WHEREAS, national research indicates that reducing
10 kindergarten through twelfth grade class sizes can be an
11 effective means to improve educational outcomes, increase
12 student engagement and improve classroom behavior,
13 particularly in early elementary grades, among at-risk
14 students and in classes with less experienced or effective
15 teachers; and

16 WHEREAS, the turnover rate for kindergarten through
17 twelfth grade teachers in New Mexico has increased over the
18 past three years, and more kindergarten through twelfth grade
19 teacher candidates are completing alternative licensure
20 pathways than traditional licensure pathways, with little or
21 no classroom experience prior to teaching; and

22 WHEREAS, reducing kindergarten through twelfth grade
23 class size maximums would require hiring additional teachers
24 and administrative assistants while New Mexico continues to
25 face shortages in those areas;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
3 legislative education study committee be requested to study
4 kindergarten through twelfth grade class size reductions,
5 including the potential effects on student outcomes, staffing
6 and funding; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
8 study committee be requested to work with representatives
9 from the public education department, the higher education
10 department, the legislative finance committee, the early
11 childhood education and care department, school district and
12 charter school leadership, teachers' unions and educator
13 preparation programs; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
15 study committee be requested to submit its research findings
16 and recommendations to the governor and the legislature and
17 to publish its report by December 31, 2024; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
20 committee, the secretary of public education, the secretary of
21 higher education and the secretary of early childhood
22 education and care. _____

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