

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 HONORING NEW MEXICO'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
12 BILINGUAL EDUCATION FACULTIES' EFFORTS AND REQUESTING THE  
13 LEGISLATURE TO DECREE A JOINT BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY  
14 BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AMONG THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW  
15 MEXICO, WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY, NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS  
16 UNIVERSITY AND NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY.  
17

18 WHEREAS, on the evening of the fifty-second anniversary of  
19 the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act, the legislature  
20 acknowledges the need for well-prepared bilingual and  
21 multilingual educators who will serve the unique cultural and  
22 linguistic diversity of New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2015, the university of New Mexico was  
24 designated as the recipient of funding to design and develop an  
25 undergraduate bilingual education degree with New Mexico

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1 highlands university, eastern New Mexico university, New Mexico  
2 state university and western New Mexico university; and

3 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, bilingual faculty from the state's  
4 institutions of higher education have developed and taught  
5 bilingual coursework since the early 1970s; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university developed and  
7 implemented a master's degree program in bilingual education in  
8 1971 through 1975; and

9 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico established the  
10 American Indian language policy research and teacher training  
11 center in 2007 to support indigenous language maintenance and  
12 revitalization initiatives; and

13 WHEREAS, numerous bilingual education faculty from across  
14 the state's institutions of higher education have provided  
15 expert testimony at state, federal and congressional hearings  
16 and commissions regarding the need for supporting bilingual  
17 education policies and programing; and

18 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico's Native American  
19 bilingual faculty were instrumental in the development and  
20 implementation of a New Mexico 520 alternative certification  
21 process to increase the number of Native American language  
22 teachers in New Mexico public schools; and

23 WHEREAS, recent efforts of bilingual education faculty in  
24 New Mexico's institutions of higher education have resulted in  
25 the development of bilingual chapters of educators increasing

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1 in New Mexico in feeder high schools and in institutions of  
2 higher education for the purpose of growing new generations of  
3 bilingual teachers; and

4 WHEREAS, the Spanish proficiency endorsement exam, whose  
5 name translates to "la prueba for Spanish bilingual teachers",  
6 was co-created in the 1990s by a New Mexico highlands  
7 university bilingual faculty member to ensure that students  
8 receive high-quality instruction in New Mexico public schools;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico adopted the state seal of  
11 bilingualism-biliteracy in 2014 to encourage the study of  
12 languages among New Mexico's secondary students; and

13 WHEREAS, numerous bilingual education faculty in New  
14 Mexico institutions of higher education have served in  
15 leadership positions on the bilingual multicultural education  
16 advisory council, the New Mexico association for bilingual  
17 education and dual language education of New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, there is a dire shortage of bilingual teachers,  
19 resulting in the inability of the state to respond to major  
20 findings of fact and conclusions of law in the *Martinez/Yazzie*  
21 *v. State of New Mexico* case and to fulfill the promise  
22 envisioned in the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be  
25 requested to work with the university of New Mexico, western

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1 New Mexico university, New Mexico highlands university and New  
2 Mexico state university bilingual education faculty to develop  
3 a joint bachelor's degree in elementary bilingual multicultural  
4 education; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education  
6 department be requested to review and address the need for  
7 providing scholarships for individuals who currently hold a  
8 bachelor's or master's degree in bilingual education, or  
9 students who graduated with a state seal of bilingualism-  
10 biliteracy on the students' New Mexico diploma of excellence,  
11 to cover the cost of pursuing a doctorate in bilingual  
12 education in order to teach bilingual education to college of  
13 education students at state institutions of higher education in  
14 New Mexico; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funds be made available to  
16 support an increase of bilingual education faculty lines to  
17 support this joint elementary bilingual multicultural education  
18 degree; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that students who graduate with the  
20 state seal of bilingualism-biliteracy be granted college credit  
21 in a language other than English throughout all institutions of  
22 higher education, including indigenous students, regardless of  
23 whether those students' languages are written or oral; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education  
25 department be requested to review and address the need for

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1 providing scholarships for students pursuing bilingual  
2 multicultural education teaching degrees or bilingual  
3 multicultural education terminal degrees in New Mexico  
4 universities and colleges; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education  
6 department be requested to fully address, fund and support the  
7 linguistic rights of New Mexico's bilingual multicultural  
8 students, as provided for in Article 12, Section 8 of the  
9 constitution of New Mexico, the Bilingual Multicultural  
10 Education Act and the federal Native American Languages Act,  
11 and comply with the court rulings of *Serna v. Portales*, *Lau v.*  
12 *Nichols*, *Castaneda v. Pickard* and *Martinez/Yazzie v. State of*  
13 *New Mexico*; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the deans of the colleges of education of the  
16 university of New Mexico, western New Mexico university, New  
17 Mexico highlands university and New Mexico state university,  
18 the secretary of public education and the secretary of higher  
19 education.

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