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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Dianne Miller Hamilton

FOR THE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO UTILIZE THE NEW MEXICO STATE APPROVING AGENCY AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES WHEN LEGISLATION IS BEING CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS THAT COULD IMPACT EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR NEW MEXICO VETERANS.

WHEREAS, congress, in its wisdom, determined that each state should create a state approving agency to approve educational programs for veterans and to determine which programs were appropriate for veterans to utilize United States department of veterans affairs education benefits; and

WHEREAS, the first state approving agencies were formed after World War II; and

WHEREAS, the primary role of a state approving agency is to review, evaluate and approve quality programs of education

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1 and training under state and federal criteria so that veterans  
2 may use the GI Bill or other veteran-related education  
3 benefits; and

4 WHEREAS, this fundamental role of a state approving agency  
5 has remained the same; however, state approving agencies have  
6 grown with the changes in society over the past fifty years.  
7 State approving agencies have become advocates for quality  
8 education and training for veterans and other eligible persons;  
9 educational partners with the institutions themselves,  
10 facilitating even greater and more diverse educational  
11 opportunities for veterans; and strong advocates for the usage  
12 of the GI Bill; and

13 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state approving agency is a  
14 division of the veterans' services department; and

15 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state approving agency approves  
16 programs of education and training at institutions of higher  
17 learning, non-degree institutions, apprenticeship programs and  
18 other on-the-job training programs; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico has approved over two hundred twenty-  
20 seven facilities for veteran-related education benefits; and

21 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2011, New Mexico had six thousand  
22 six hundred fifty-seven persons receiving veteran-related  
23 education benefits at one hundred twenty-five active  
24 facilities; and

25 WHEREAS, state approving agencies conduct on-site

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1 compliance visits at approved institutions and schools; provide  
2 technical assistance to all interested parties; are engaged in  
3 outreach activities to foster the usage of the GI Bill; and act  
4 as state liaisons in assisting military installations to  
5 provide base personnel with quality educational offerings; and

6 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state approving agency is a member  
7 of the national association of state approving agencies, which  
8 works in cooperation with its partners to facilitate the  
9 efforts of the state approving agencies to promote and  
10 safeguard quality educational and training programs for all  
11 veterans and other eligible persons to ensure greater  
12 educational and training opportunities that meet the changing  
13 needs of veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, state approving agencies have developed a working  
15 partnership with the federal government that other federal  
16 agencies have tried to emulate; and

17 WHEREAS, every year, congress discusses and enacts  
18 legislation impacting veteran-related education benefits; and

19 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state approving agency is the only  
20 state government entity that works directly with schools and  
21 veterans regarding veteran-related education benefits and that  
22 can provide invaluable information to the New Mexico  
23 congressional delegation on issues regarding these benefits;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, to ensure quality educational and training

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1 programs for veterans and other eligible persons, it is  
2 important for congress to utilize the expertise of the New  
3 Mexico state approving agency and the national association of  
4 state approving agencies when contemplating legislation that  
5 could impact veteran-related education benefits;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional  
8 delegation be requested to utilize the New Mexico state  
9 approving agency and the national association of state  
10 approving agencies when legislation is being considered by  
11 congress that could impact education benefits for New Mexico  
12 veterans; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional  
15 delegation, the secretary of the United States department of  
16 veterans affairs, the president of the national association of  
17 state directors of veterans affairs, the national association  
18 of state approving agencies and the veterans' services  
19 department.