HOUSE MEMORIAL 21

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio "Moe" Maestas

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
ESTABLISHING A FOUR-YEAR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION
AT THE NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico school for the deaf is a land
grant institution whose operation is provided for in the
constitution of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico school for the deaf operates a
thirty-acre campus that was granted by congress in the late
1800s; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico school for the deaf already is
under the purview of the higher education department and
receives a percentage of its funding from that state
department; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico school for the deaf has provided
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bilingual residential educational and support services in
American Sign Language and in English for deaf and hard-of-
hearing students for more than one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for post-secondary educational
institutions to pursue twenty-first-century reform in public
education, including comprehensive systems in deaf and special
education; and

WHEREAS, the only post-secondary educational institution
established to offer an educational program in both American
Sign Language and English is Gallaudet university in
Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, many deaf and hard-of-hearing students in New
Mexico may prefer to remain geographically close to their
families after completion of high school and while pursuing
post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, many deaf or hard-of-hearing students outside of
New Mexico may prefer to attend a bilingual post-secondary
educational institution in a less densely populated area than
Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico school for the deaf has the campus
and facilities to offer post-secondary education and thus
provide greater educational opportunities for deaf and hard-of-
hearing students in New Mexico and throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the conversion to a post-secondary educational
institution for deaf and hard-of-hearing students on the campus
of the New Mexico school for the deaf could cultivate the
untapped potential of the institution and of students both
inside and outside New Mexico;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
education study committee be requested to convene a task force
consisting of qualified staff from the public education
department, the higher education department and experts in
community engagement and educational reform to study the
example of Gallaudet university for evaluating the feasibility
of establishing the New Mexico school for the deaf as a
bilingual public four-year post-secondary educational
institution that embraces American Sign Language and English;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the secretary of public education, the public
education commission, the secretary of higher education, the
legislative education study committee and the legislative
finance committee.

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