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SENATE MEMORIAL 22

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY

Jacob R. Candelaria

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM MARCH 2, 2018 "SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY" IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, national speech and debate education day is being celebrated on March 2, 2018 to promote enhanced instruction in speech and debate across all grade levels and to highlight the pivotal role speech and debate abilities play in personal advocacy, social movements and public policy; and

WHEREAS, speech and debate education helps students develop important skills in communication, critical thinking, creativity and collaboration through the practice of public speaking; and

WHEREAS, speech and debate education in New Mexico has grown significantly over the past decade, with thousands of students participating every year; and

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1           WHEREAS, speech and debate instruction is an essential  
2 component of a well-rounded educational curriculum, and New  
3 Mexico speech and debate alumni have been admitted to the top  
4 colleges and universities across the globe; and

5           WHEREAS, through speech and debate, participants learn not  
6 only to analyze and express complex ideas effectively, but also  
7 to listen, concur, question and dissent with reason and  
8 compassion; and

9           WHEREAS, the skills learned through speech and debate  
10 empower youth to become engaged citizens, skilled professionals  
11 and leaders in today's global society; and

12           WHEREAS, countless educators in New Mexico devote  
13 in-school, after-school and weekend time to supporting their  
14 students in speech and debate practices and competitions, and  
15 their example of hard work and dedication makes a lasting,  
16 positive impact on their pupils; and

17           WHEREAS, students from New Mexico have finished at the top  
18 of the national speech and debate tournament every year; the  
19 2012 national speech and debate student of the year was from  
20 East Mountain high school in Sandia Park; and debaters from New  
21 Mexico consistently place in the top five in the world in the  
22 international public policy forum; and

23           WHEREAS, the New Mexico speech and debate association will  
24 host the 2020 national speech and debate tournament in  
25 Albuquerque; and

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