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SENATE MEMORIAL 56

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

INTRODUCED BY

Howie C. Morales

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL RETIREES.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico association of educational retirees is an inclusive organization that promotes the professional, economic, intellectual, social and physical well-being of its members, encourages volunteer opportunities in the community and provides advocacy for improved retirement benefits for all educational retirees; and

WHEREAS, for more than seventy years, the New Mexico association of educational retirees has been the only organization in the state whose sole purpose is to promote the quality of life of all retired educators in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico association of educational retirees has twenty-seven units statewide and a growing membership of over six thousand four hundred retirees; and

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1           WHEREAS, the New Mexico association of educational  
2 retirees keeps members informed of all important matters  
3 affecting them through newsletters, legislative updates, its  
4 website, phone calls, emails and unit meetings; and

5           WHEREAS, the New Mexico association of educational  
6 retirees community service program provides retired educators  
7 the opportunity to volunteer services in schools, literary  
8 training, tutoring, libraries, gardens, offices, churches,  
9 prison programs, animal shelters, social service transportation  
10 and care for family members; and

11           WHEREAS, the New Mexico association of educational  
12 retirees voluntary service program provides services to  
13 individuals as well as public and private entities that cannot  
14 provide the quantity or quality of services required to meet  
15 the needs of the retiree population; and

16           WHEREAS, the voluntary services provided often meet or  
17 exceed or augment the services and care required to maintain  
18 the quality of life for a segment of the state's population;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, in 2014, retired educators volunteered one  
21 hundred forty-seven thousand thirteen and nine-tenths hours,  
22 calculated by the United States bureau of labor statistics at  
23 twenty-two dollars fifty-five cents (\$22.55) per hour for a  
24 monetary value of three million three hundred fifteen thousand  
25 one hundred forty-five dollars (\$3,315,145); and

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1           WHEREAS, in 2015, retired educators volunteered two  
2 hundred nineteen thousand forty-four and five-tenths hours,  
3 calculated by the United States bureau of labor statistics at  
4 twenty-three dollars seven cents (\$23.07) per hour for a  
5 monetary value of five million fifty-three thousand three  
6 hundred forty-six dollars (\$5,053,346); and

7           WHEREAS, the New Mexico association of educational  
8 retirees works to protect the pension and health care benefits  
9 of its members; and

10          WHEREAS, the New Mexico association of educational  
11 retirees has a strong legislative team that monitors  
12 legislation that affects educational retirees and has an  
13 established "adopt a legislator" program to communicate  
14 legislative positions to individual legislators; and

15          WHEREAS, the New Mexico association of educational  
16 retirees participates in the legislative process as it affects  
17 health care, retirement and cost-of-living adjustments that  
18 affect older retirees; and

19          WHEREAS, the New Mexico association of educational  
20 retirees also advocates for active educational employees and  
21 for other consumer issues that may impact retirees; and

22          WHEREAS, the New Mexico association of educational  
23 retirees advocates the interests of retirees by having an  
24 association representative serve on the board of the  
25 educational retirement board, the retiree health care authority

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1 and other statewide committees;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
3 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico association of educational  
4 retirees be recognized for its representation and advocacy of  
5 educational retirees in New Mexico; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the president of the New Mexico association of  
8 educational retirees.