SENATE MEMORIAL 59

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ENSURING ACCESS TO STATE PROGRAMS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE LIMITED ENGLISH-PROFICIENT.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of five majority-minority states with a rich and diverse population, representing various racial and ethnic groups, including emerging Asian, African, Central American and Middle Eastern populations; and

WHEREAS, eliminating barriers for all New Mexico residents will help end discriminatory practices toward New Mexicans who are limited English-proficient, a goal that has not yet been achieved; and

WHEREAS, true and equitable access to systems such as health care, law enforcement and social service programs creates a healthier New Mexico community overall; and
WHEREAS, statewide implementation of limited English-
proficiency plans will increase the appropriate use of
interpreters and translators, thereby improving access toward
equitable and quality services for all New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has the opportunity to become a
national leader in improving access to state services for
persons with limited English proficiency; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico affirms its commitment to Title VI of
the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, which protects people
from discrimination based on national origin in programs or
activities that receive federal financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, by supporting new arrivals in New Mexico who may
have limited English proficiency, the state can contribute
toward increased economic development; and

WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton recognized the
principles of nondiscrimination and inclusion embodied in Title
VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through his issuance of
Executive Order 13166; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13166 required all federal
agencies to develop plans to ensure that persons who are
limited English-proficient have meaningful access to federal
programs and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be encouraged to issue an
executive order requiring all state agencies to develop and
implement policies and plans to ensure that New Mexico residents
who are limited English-proficient have full and meaningful
access to state programs and activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
transmitted to the governor.

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