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SENATE MEMORIAL 71

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Lynda M. Lovejoy

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY ACCESS TO  
PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE NORTHWEST QUADRANT OF THE STATE.

WHEREAS, most of the sparsely populated school districts  
in the state have students who live in outlying areas of the  
district but who are closer to a school in another district;  
and

WHEREAS, the Gallup-McKinley county school district is one  
of the largest of New Mexico's school districts and borders six  
other school districts, Central consolidated, Farmington,  
Bloomfield, Cuba, Grants and Zuni school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Gallup-McKinley county school district has  
built a new high school, Tse' Yi' Gai high school, in Pueblo  
Pintado in the northeast corner of McKinley county; and

WHEREAS, there are students who live in the Bloomfield

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1 school district but who are closer to Tse' Yi' Gai high school,  
2 and they have requested to attend Tse Yi' Gai because they  
3 would have to travel only twenty miles to and from school  
4 instead of forty miles; and

5 WHEREAS, the high school has the capacity to take those  
6 students, and the Public School Code allows such a transfer,  
7 but the Bloomfield school district has not agreed to allow  
8 those students to transfer to Tse' Yi' Gai high school; and

9 WHEREAS, public schools should be provided for the  
10 convenience of students, not school districts, and school  
11 districts should do everything in their power to make it easy  
12 for students to attend school, remain in school and graduate;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, this is just one example of the problems created  
15 by school boundaries that do not take into account where  
16 students live; and

17 WHEREAS, the house of representatives requested, in 2009,  
18 that the Indian education division of the public education  
19 department study the issue of public education access for  
20 students in the northwest quadrant of the state;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
22 OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be requested  
23 to complete its study and resolve issues of public education  
24 access for students in the northwest quadrant of the state; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education

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1 department report its findings and recommendations to the  
2 legislative education study committee by August 1, 2011; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the public education department and the director  
5 of the legislative education study committee.