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HOUSE MEMORIAL 65

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

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio "Moe" Maestas and Idalia Lechuga-Tena

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF A BILINGUAL WORKFORCE.

WHEREAS, in today's global economy, the ability to communicate is vital; and

WHEREAS, as more companies expand internationally, the ability to communicate in another language has become a significant advantage in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, fluency in a second language can help employees stand out among prospective employers and can open doors to opportunities that people without foreign language skills might miss; and

WHEREAS, having bilingual speakers in the workplace can afford business owners the opportunity to reach a wider customer and client base; and

WHEREAS, additionally, bilingual speakers can serve as

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1 interpreters for potential and existing clients; and

2 WHEREAS, the ability to speak both English and Spanish can
3 provide financial rewards, such as bilingual pay differential,
4 in the workforce; and

5 WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 12, Section 8 of the
6 constitution of New Mexico, the legislature has been required
7 to provide for the training of teachers so that they may become
8 proficient in both the English and Spanish languages; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2013, seventy-three percent of Hispanics age
10 five years and older spoke Spanish at home, according to United
11 States census bureau statistics; and

12 WHEREAS, as of 2015, nearly forty-eight percent of the
13 greater Albuquerque metropolitan area is of Hispanic origin;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, according to the United States census bureau,
16 seventeen and five-tenths percent of the Albuquerque working-
17 age population speaks both English and Spanish, which places
18 Albuquerque in the top twenty-five of all United States
19 bilingual metropolitan areas; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico is uniquely positioned to supply
21 employees to the workforce who speak Spanish as well as
22 English; and

23 WHEREAS, central New Mexico community college is in the
24 forefront of this effort with a major bilingual education
25 initiative to promote Spanish as a workforce development

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1 program;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the benefits of
4 a bilingual workforce be recognized; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the continued growth and
6 development of a bilingual workforce be supported; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the secretary of economic development, the
9 secretary of workforce solutions, the secretary of tourism, the
10 secretary of public education, the secretary of higher
11 education and the president of central New Mexico community
12 college.