

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 47

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO UTILIZE
12 THE NEW MEXICO STATE APPROVING AGENCY AND THE NATIONAL
13 ASSOCIATION OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES WHEN LEGISLATION IS
14 BEING CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS THAT COULD IMPACT EDUCATION
15 BENEFITS FOR NEW MEXICO VETERANS.

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17 WHEREAS, congress, in its wisdom, determined that each
18 state should create a state approving agency to approve
19 educational programs for veterans and to determine which
20 programs were appropriate for veterans to utilize United States
21 department of veterans affairs education benefits; and

22 WHEREAS, the first state approving agencies were formed
23 after World War II; and

24 WHEREAS, the primary role of a state approving agency is
25 to review, evaluate and approve quality programs of education

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1 and training under state and federal criteria so that veterans
2 may use the GI Bill or other veteran-related education
3 benefits; and

4 WHEREAS, this fundamental role of a state approving agency
5 has remained the same; however, state approving agencies have
6 grown with the changes in society over the past fifty years.
7 State approving agencies have become advocates for quality
8 education and training for veterans and other eligible persons;
9 educational partners with the institutions themselves,
10 facilitating even greater and more diverse educational
11 opportunities for veterans; and strong advocates for the usage
12 of the GI Bill; and

13 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state approving agency is a
14 division of the veterans' services department; and

15 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state approving agency approves
16 programs of education and training at institutions of higher
17 learning, non-degree institutions, apprenticeship programs and
18 other on-the-job training programs; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico has approved over two hundred twenty-
20 seven facilities for veteran-related education benefits; and

21 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2011, New Mexico had six thousand
22 six hundred fifty-seven persons receiving veteran-related
23 education benefits at one hundred twenty-five active
24 facilities; and

25 WHEREAS, state approving agencies conduct on-site

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1 compliance visits at approved institutions and schools; provide
2 technical assistance to all interested parties; are engaged in
3 outreach activities to foster the usage of the GI Bill; and act
4 as state liaisons in assisting military installations to
5 provide base personnel with quality educational offerings; and

6 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state approving agency is a member
7 of the national association of state approving agencies, which
8 works in cooperation with its partners to facilitate the
9 efforts of the state approving agencies to promote and
10 safeguard quality educational and training programs for all
11 veterans and other eligible persons to ensure greater
12 educational and training opportunities that meet the changing
13 needs of veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, state approving agencies have developed a working
15 partnership with the federal government that other federal
16 agencies have tried to emulate; and

17 WHEREAS, every year, congress discusses and enacts
18 legislation impacting veteran-related education benefits; and

19 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state approving agency is the only
20 state government entity that works directly with schools and
21 veterans regarding veteran-related education benefits and that
22 can provide invaluable information to the New Mexico
23 congressional delegation on issues regarding these benefits;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, to ensure quality educational and training

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1 programs for veterans and other eligible persons, it is
2 important for congress to utilize the expertise of the New
3 Mexico state approving agency and the national association of
4 state approving agencies when contemplating legislation that
5 could impact veteran-related education benefits;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
8 delegation be requested to utilize the New Mexico state
9 approving agency and the national association of state
10 approving agencies when legislation is being considered by
11 congress that could impact education benefits for New Mexico
12 veterans; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional
15 delegation, the secretary of the United States department of
16 veterans affairs, the president of the national association of
17 state directors of veterans affairs, the national association
18 of state approving agencies and the veterans' services
19 department.

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