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Contact: Matt Garcia-Sierra, m.garciasierra@nmlegis.gov, 505.205.5486

Bipartisan statement on MLG schools testing waiver request

Santa Fe, NM- The New Mexico Public Education Department requested and was denied a waiver to exempt themselves from federal student testing requirements, and are now seeking “flexibility” for testing during the nearly year-long COVID schools shutdown. The Governor forced schools to close in March 2020, adjusted for hybrid for the fall semester before quickly shuttering schools again just weeks later, and has recently allowed local school boards to determine in-person learning on their own with only two months left in the school year.

House Republican Education Committee members; Representatives Alonzo Baldonado (Los Lunas), Jack Chatfield (Mosquero), Rebecca Dow (TorC), and Ryan Lane (Aztec), in addition to Rep. Phelps Anderson (I-Roswell), today issued a statement regarding the second request from the Lujan Grisham administration to exempt New Mexico students from federal testing requirements, “The Governor has asked for the courts to end the Yazzie lawsuit, and this is the second time she asked for a waiver to not test students. How does waiving testing for New Mexico students help with the educational moonshot?”

Shortly after Lujan Grisham’s inauguration, the administration requested and received a waiver on federal testing requirements. Additionally, in the 2021 legislative session, several education related bills have been blocked in committee:

- HB 213, a measure to provide special needs students and their families with funds to initiate third-party interventions when local schools fail to do so
- HB 280, a measure to provide low-income families with \$200-\$400 to help cover the cost of homeschooling
- HJR 7, a measure to ensure that would ensure tax-dollars follow the student, not the institution

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