



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NEW MEXICO CHAIRMAN REQUESTS LONGER PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR PED'S HEARING ON PROPOSED SCHOOL CURRICULA

Albuquerque, October 28--The Republican Party of New Mexico has contacted New Mexico Public Education Secretary Dr. Kurt Steinhaus to formally request an extension on the public comment period regarding proposed changes in the state's social studies curricula. RPNM and others have raised serious concerns about these proposals, which include leftist and biased teachings. Of particular concern is the possible implementation of Critical Race Theory instruction in our New Mexico classrooms.

New Mexicans on both sides of the political aisle have voiced opposition to the proposals, and such a controversial topic warrants sufficient public input.

The following was sent to Secretary Steinhaus, asking for more time for the public to express views at a scheduled public hearing on November 12:

Dear Secretary Steinhaus,

The Republican Party of New Mexico (RPNM) is contacting you to respectfully request an extension for the public comment period regarding the Public Education Department's proposed changes in its social studies curricula.

We believe that the designated two hours (1pm-3pm) on November 12 are

inadequate for statewide input and don't allow enough time for substantial public comment on such an importance issue.

As you are well aware, PED's academic proposal is detailed, complex and has raised many concerns regarding its contents and suggested contents. To this end, we believe more time should be allotted for the public to speak out. We also contend that it would certainly behoove the Department so it can collect and properly evaluate as much input from New Mexicans as possible.

PED's plan is a controversial one, and, if implemented, will have a significant impact on our children, our education system and the future of our state.

Since this issue is causing such an outcry among Democrats and Republicans, the time allotted for a public comment period should be extended to **5 hours**.

Again, RPNM is requesting that PED grant New Mexicans more time for public comment at your November 12 hearing.

Thank you for your prompt attention in this most important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Pearce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Pearce
RPNM Chairman