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## **Senator Cliff Pirtle Issues Statement on PED Fine of Hope Christian**

*Alleged violation of mask mandate will result in \$5,000 fine*

SANTA FE – Today the Governor's Public Education Department issued a press release announcing it will fine Hope Christian, the largest private school in New Mexico, \$5,000 for allegedly violating the mask mandate.

**Senator Cliff Pirtle** (District 32-Chaves, Eddy, and Otero) issued the following statement regarding the fine:

"While New Mexico students continue to suffer under this Administration's failed leadership, the Public Education Department has the audacity to waste time bragging about fining a local school \$5,000. This Governor and her team of political hacks genuinely have no shame. Instead of writing press releases, they should think about how their policies continue to harm our children. Perhaps New Mexico would not be one of the worst states in education if they spent their time focusing on improving outcomes instead of taking money from students. Shame on the Governor and shame on the Public Education Department."

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