

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 5, 2025 Contact: Brandon Harris  
Brandon.Harris@nmlegis.gov (505) 506-6518 Senate Republicans Unanimously Introduce  
Education Opportunity Bill for Underprivileged NM Students Santa Fe, NM — Senate  
Republicans have unanimously endorsed a proposal introduced by former school board  
member Senator Craig Brandt, (R-Rio Rancho) that would expand educational opportunities for  
underprivileged students. Specifically, this proposal seeks to empower at-risk students living to  
select an educational institution that best meets their needs. Eligibility would be extended only  
to students in low-income households (with incomes at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Rates  
or roughly \$60,000 annually for a family of four). Senator Brandt has issued the following  
accompanying statement: “My fellow legislators and I are proud to introduce this bill, which will  
provide incredible opportunities to our state’s poorest students in the most underserved  
communities throughout New Mexico.” The Senator continued, “The one-size-fits-all approach  
has failed to meet the individual needs of our students, especially those who face the daily  
adversity of poverty, hunger, and crime-ridden neighborhoods. This measure aims to rectify that;  
a student’s zip code or family income level should never disqualify them from the opportunity to  
achieve their fullest potential.” ###