

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: H.B. 130

From : Michael F. Shaughnessy, Educator , Professor, Researcher, Advocate for Gifted and Talented and Creative Children and Adults.

Date : Feb 2, 2021

I am writing to ask for your support for HB 130 for gifted /talented /and creative children who needs have been sorely neglected in the past 20-30 years since I have been in New Mexico.

First, legislators need to clearly understand there is a difference between intellectually gifted (I.Q. above 130 and talented (music, art, dance, theatre, drama, sports,) and creative students (writers, poets, inventors)

Many of these students are currently in the regular curriculum and are “ bored out of their minds” and thus accomplish very little in the regular curriculum. On occasion, a teacher will advocate for acceleration and on occasion enrichment, but they really need more than just one period a week with some “ busy work”. They need a challenging teacher who will foster higher order thinking skills, critical thinking skills, scientific reasoning skills, higher mathematical skills (Calculus I,II, III, IV, Numerical Analysis, Physics, Anatomy and Physiology and the like) And yes, some of these can be provided on-line with adequate funding from the legislature and encouragement from our legislative leaders.

I hear from parents constantly that their child is bored, uninterested in school, and is seeking out other realms to enhance their learning.

Taxpayers need to know that our legislators CARE for our gifted and talented and creative children as well as other children with special needs. Many of our gifted and talented and creative children are not receiving a free APPROPRIATE education that they deserve.

I ask your assistance in this realm.

As a school psychologist, former guidance counselor and former teacher- I can attest to the fact that these needs are not being met. And I hope you can address these needs.

Michael F. Shaughnessy
School Psychologist
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