

February 6, 2021

The Honorable Peter Wirth
The Honorable Gregory A. Baca
The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton
The Honorable James G. Townsend
New Mexico State Capitol
1339 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Leaders Wirth, Baca, Stapleton, and Townsend:

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) supports a world where giftedness and high potential are fully recognized, universally valued, and actively nurtured to support children from all backgrounds in reaching for their personal best.

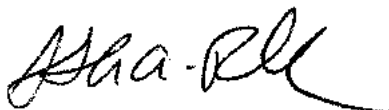
On behalf of our network of 30,000 stakeholders, we encourage your support of the passage of House Bill 130. Research from the federally funded National Center for Gifted Research on Gifted Education shows that gifted children in poverty and minority groups that demonstrate comparable levels of achievement and aptitude are 250% less likely to be identified for and participate in gifted and talented programs even if they show the same aptitude.

All school districts should support efforts to ensure equity and excellence in the service of reducing excellence gaps across the state. The provisions of House Bill 130 that outline standards for equity and excellence in gifted education are a welcome step in the right direction. In particular, the provisions on universal screening and monitoring would make New Mexico a national leader in the education of our country's brightest students.

We also note that many of the bill's provisions require no new funding or, in the case of academic acceleration, could potentially lower education costs over the long-term, all while investing in the economic and cultural development of New Mexico and its children.

Thank you for your commitment to support gifted and talented children throughout New Mexico and your consideration of House Bill 130. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 202-785-4268 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Plucker, Ph.D.
President



John Segota, MPS, CAE
Executive Director