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Contact: Joaquin Romero
joaquin.romero@nmlegis.gov
(505) 506-5798

Senator Gay Kernan, Senator David Gallegos Applaud Senate Passage of Teacher Pay Raise Legislation

Senate Bill 1 would make teacher pay in New Mexico the most competitive in the region

SANTA FE – Today, the Senate passed Senate Bill 1 on a unanimous 35-0 vote. The bill raises teacher salaries by \$10,000 per tier, making the average teacher pay in New Mexico the most competitive in the region.

“I want to thank Senator Stewart for acknowledging the contributions of the oil and gas industry when it comes to funding education in New Mexico,” said **Senator Gay Kernan** (District 42 -Eddy and Lea), a former educator. “The challenges of this past year have led to teacher shortages all over the state. This significant investment is a good first step in our efforts to retain and attract the educators we need to give our children the best education we can.”

“Investing in teachers is an investment in our future,” added **Senator David Gallegos** (District 41-Eddy and Lea), a current school board member. “We need to change the culture around the profession of teaching. Besides parents, our teachers are the greatest asset to the lives of students during their formative years. This raise is one way we can tell our educators that we stand beside them and want to invest in the vital work they do.”

The bill now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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