

Senator:

My name is Frank Pagurko, and I write to you on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, an economic policy think tank based in Albuquerque. We work to promote the interests of the people of New Mexico through free market policy.

In the interest of everyone who lives and works in New Mexico, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on HJR 1, the Permanent Fund for Early Childhood resolution. Tapping the permanent fund for broadened early childhood education has long been billed as a cure-all for New Mexico's education woes. Unfortunately, actual data does not support the assertion that pre-k improves educational outcomes. Only two large scientific studies (including a control group) have been done on the topic, but both show that parental involvement predicts educational success, not pre-kindergarten programs. ([https://riograndefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Pre-K\\_Stevens\\_7-16-20.pdf](https://riograndefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Pre-K_Stevens_7-16-20.pdf)) Second, if the legislature is determined to improve education in New Mexico, as it should be, it should look to a more holistic approach. Private school choice programs are proven to improve education for *all* students, even those who remain in public schools. New Mexico students deserve an education that works for them, not just more money thrown at a broken system.

I encourage you to look to the data on how New Mexico education can be truly transformed. Tapping the permanent fund will not do that. Please vote no on HJR 1. Thank you.



Frank Pagurko III