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OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

April 7, 2023

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 21

The Honorable Javier Martinez, Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Speaker Martinez and Members of the House:

I have decided to veto HOUSE BILL 126, as amended ("HB 126"), which would have reduced the minimum number of course units required for students to graduate from high school.

As Governor of New Mexico, I am deeply committed to ensuring that our students receive the highest quality education possible. I firmly believe that education is the foundation of a successful society and a strong economy, and that we must do everything in our power to provide our students with the tools they need to succeed. HB 126 lowers the minimum requirements to graduate from high school and weakens graduation standards by removing the current requirement that students complete one course unit in either career/workplace readiness or a language other than English; by removing the requirement that students complete one course unit in dual credit, honors, advanced placement, or distance learning; and by reducing physical education requirements.

The challenges of the 21st century demand that our students be well-prepared, well-educated, and well-rounded individuals. I encourage you to work with my administration during the interim to find ways to strengthen our educational system and support the diverse needs of New Mexico students and families. Together we can achieve transformational change in our schools that will ensure all students are successful from their earliest years, through college and career.

Because of these issues, and pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have vetoed HOUSE BILL 126, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Session, 2023.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham".

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: 11:20 a.m. p.m.
Date: April 7 2023

By [Signature]
Secretary of State

Time: 11:44 a.m. p.m.
Date: April 7, 2023

By [Signature]
Chief Clerk of the House