

As the 2019 New Mexico Teacher of the Year, Rio Rancho resident, and Rio Rancho Public School employee, I proudly endorse Representative Jason Harper of District 57 for re-election.

As an educational advocate and mother of four school-age children, I recognize the hard work Representative Jason Harper has done to pass legislation that positively impacts the lives of New Mexico's teachers and students. When teachers across the state of New Mexico raised their voices against the punitive teacher evaluation system, Rep. Jason Harper introduced HB 227. The bill unanimously passed to make changes to the teacher evaluation system to stop penalizing teachers for staying home when sick. This legislation allowed me to perform my duties as an educator while utilizing my sick days to take care of my family and myself without being penalized.

To help protect the Lottery Scholarship for the future of New Mexico's children, Representative Jason Harper has worked diligently to make amendments to existing legislation and pass new legislation to keep the Lottery Scholarship available and equitable for all. His introduction of HB 263 permanently keeps the Lottery Scholarship safe and self-sustaining. This legislation along with others prove that Representative Jason Harper is dedicated to the future of New Mexico's children and our workforce. By focusing on the Lottery Scholarship; future teachers, engineers, businessmen and businesswomen will have access to the financial support they need to equip themselves with the education required to positively contribute to New Mexico's workforce. This investment in their future is quintessential for growing New Mexico.

Representative Jason Harper also Co-sponsored SB 122 which fixed high school graduation requirements to ensure that marching band, JROTC, and other co-curricular activities count toward high school PE credits. This allows students who participate in other curricular activities to get high school credits for their hard work. As a mother, I appreciate this advocacy which ensures my children's choices will count toward graduation without burdening them with additional or repetitive course work. Representative Jason Harper hears the voices of New Mexico and works to make their voices heard.

Representative Jason Harper's dedication to New Mexican's future through solid legislation proves that he is the voice of his constituents, our community, and our state. Not only does this fine man work to meet the needs of New Mexico's people but he also realizes that financial stability is a vital part of that future. I appreciate his focus during the campaign season and I value his classy approach that does not include smearing or slandering his opponent. As a teacher I value the legislative work Representative Jason Harper has done for my career and for the work he has done for the children and families of New Mexico. Please join me in voting for the Re-Election of Representative Jason Harper for District 57.

Jessica Sanders
2019 New Mexico Teacher of the Year
President of New Mexico Science Teachers Association
Instructional Coach
Rio Rancho Public Schools