

## NEW MEXICO EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT BOARD

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November 4, 2019

By email: Annette.lopez2@state.nm.us

Annette Lopez State Personnel Office

Dear Ms. Lopez:

Re: Proposed amendment to 1.7.7.15 NMAC – Educational Leave

The New Mexico Educational Retirement Board (NMERB) strongly supports the proposed amendment to rule 1.7.7.15 NMAC, entitled "Educational Leave." This amendment would allow state employees to take advantage of a greater variety of educational opportunities than are currently available. This will benefit not only the employees themselves, but also agencies such as NMERB, and the state as a whole. The benefits of having a more educated and well-rounded workforce are obvious and far-reaching. Expanding "educational leave" will enhance the lives and well-being of state employees both professionally and personally. It will increase morale, work performance, and overall provide state employees with increased opportunities for promotion and advancement. NMERB is committed to the goal of promoting educational opportunities for everyone in New Mexico. This amendment supports that goal.

Sincerely,

Jan Goodwin

**Executive Director**