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**STATEMENT**  
**Archbishop John C. Wester on the  
Passage of the HJR1 Early Childhood  
Constitutional Amendment**

ALBUQUERQUE – Tuesday, February 6, 2018—IMMEDIATE RELEASE— Archbishop John C. Wester has issued the following statement regarding the passage of the HJR1 Early Childhood Constitutional Amendment:

*I congratulate the New Mexico House of Representatives for recognizing the needs of our children. Their critical passage of HJR1 will allow New Mexicans to vote for a Constitutional amendment that brings the Land Grant Permanent Fund's archaic distribution formula up to speed with science: learning begins at birth. This passage is responsible and admirable; we cannot continue with the status quo wherein our children rank in the highest percentage of those living in poverty in the United States.*

*We now pray the New Mexico State Senate will also hear our children's voices and pass HJR1 so voters can participate in strengthening New Mexico for our children and our posterity. We can both protect the fund and create the educational system to change the future.—END*