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1 and effective treatment, the less their chances of being  
2 adopted or re-entering society with the tools necessary to  
3 create a successful and happy life; and

4 WHEREAS, foster parents, treatment foster care providers  
5 and adoptive parents have been working diligently to provide  
6 badly needed treatment services to children referred to their  
7 care; and

8 WHEREAS, decisions by medicaid managed care  
9 organizations, overseen by the human services department,  
10 have sometimes disrupted the placement and integrity of  
11 courses of treatment carefully established for these children  
12 and has left treatment foster care homes and programs with  
13 the unhappy choice of either dismissing the children before  
14 their courses of treatment are complete or providing free  
15 services; and

16 WHEREAS, the rates of reimbursement for these homes and  
17 programs, including subsidized foster and adoptive homes, are  
18 being reviewed by both the children, youth and families  
19 department and the human services department; and

20 WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department's  
21 new statewide centralized intake system and public response  
22 line have notably increased the number of abuse and neglect  
23 reports to the department;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative finance committee  
2 direct its staff to conduct a fiscal and performance audit of  
3 the foster care programs of the children, youth and families  
4 department and of the human services department's  
5 participation and responsibilities in the treatment foster  
6 care program; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit encompass any  
8 placements used as alternatives to foster care when children  
9 are removed from their homes by the children, youth and  
10 families department; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit carefully examine  
12 procedures and criteria used in initial and subsequent  
13 screening and evaluation of all children and families who  
14 have been the subject of mandated reports of suspected abuse  
15 and neglect; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the role of the children,  
17 youth and families department, in monitoring the  
18 appropriateness of the evaluation and assessment of such  
19 children conducted through managed care organizations, as  
20 well as the responsibility of that department and the human  
21 services department in monitoring the evaluation process and  
22 the referrals, treatment and outcomes of those children, be  
23 considered in the audit; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit include detailed  
25

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1 examination of all cases of children in all residential  
2 facilities and programs, including juvenile justice  
3 facilities, crisis shelters, foster and treatment foster care  
4 homes or facilities; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and  
6 families department, the human services department, the  
7 school of medicine at the university of New Mexico and other  
8 state agencies cooperate as requested with the legislative  
9 finance committee in conducting its audit of these matters;  
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance  
12 committee report its findings to the legislative health and  
13 human services committee in October 2000, together with any  
14 recommendations for legislation; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 sent to the legislative finance committee, the legislative  
17 health and human services committee, the children, youth and  
18 families department, the human services department and the  
19 school of medicine at the university of New Mexico.