

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 31

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE AND THE  
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE  
MEANS TO INCREASE COMPENSATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS.

WHEREAS, research studies show that quality early care and  
education for young children result in improved educational  
outcomes and lives for those children, along with reduced costs  
and reduced needs for special education and delinquency  
programs later; and

WHEREAS, continuity of caregivers and educators is key to  
providing quality educational experiences for young children;  
and

WHEREAS, for early childhood education and family support  
professionals, compensation is a central element in the

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1 decision of whether to stay in or leave the field; and

2 WHEREAS, the current compensation for early childhood  
3 education and family support professionals is so low that it is  
4 the major reason for the high turnover rate of those  
5 professionals; and

6 WHEREAS, successful models for increasing compensation and  
7 staff retention exist in other states;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study  
10 committee and the legislative health and human services  
11 committee be requested to study the issue of compensation and  
12 retention of early childhood education and family support  
13 professionals; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education  
15 study committee convene a workgroup composed of early childhood  
16 educators and professionals, including representatives from the  
17 New Mexico association for the education of young children, the  
18 New Mexico child care association, families, head start staff,  
19 training and technical assistance program staff, New Mexico  
20 advocates for children and families, the New Mexico early  
21 childhood higher education task force, united way of central  
22 New Mexico, the success by six initiative, the Albuquerque  
23 child care round table, family support New Mexico, the  
24 children, youth and families department, the state department  
25 of public education and the department of health; and

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