

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 68

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY
THE EFFICACY OF ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT OPTIONS IN ADDITION TO
POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE ADOPTION.

WHEREAS, every child has the right to a loving and
nurturing family; and

WHEREAS, children, especially when taken into custody by
the state due to abuse and neglect, need consistency and
stability; and

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico, through the children,
youth and families department, desires to serve children
needing long-term or permanent placement outside the home in
the most effective and efficient manner and with the highest
quality of service possible; and

WHEREAS, currently, when an abused or neglected child

underscored material = new
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1 remains in the custody of the children, youth and families
2 department, the child will average three placements within his
3 first year of custody and often several additional placements
4 during the time the child remains in custody; and

5 WHEREAS, it is not unusual for a child to have four or
6 more social workers managing his case during the course of
7 custody for abuse and neglect; and

8 WHEREAS, pursuant to New Mexico law and the federal
9 Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, every child who is
10 eligible for adoption should be in a permanent placement
11 consistent with that child's individual needs;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families
14 department be requested to study the efficacy of alternative
15 placement, including congregate care and small regulated
16 community adoption and permanency homes, in addition to foster
17 and adoptive homes, and submit a plan of study to the
18 appropriate interim legislative committee in June 2001 and its
19 findings and suggested legislation, if any, to the same
20 committee in October 2001; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and the
23 children, youth and families department.