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HOUSE MEMORIAL 22

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

INTRODUCED BY

John Paul Taylor

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO
ADVOCATE STRONGLY FOR YOUTH NEEDING TREATMENT FOSTER CARE AND
OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

**WHEREAS, the citizen review board was created by the
legislature to provide a permanent system for independent and
objective monitoring of children placed in the custody of the
children, youth and families department; and**

**WHEREAS, these local boards invest heavily of their time,
knowledge and experience to ensure that abused and neglected
children are given adequate attention to permit them to grow
into healthy, productive adults; and**

**WHEREAS, the medicaid managed care system has been
consistently identified, by citizen review boards as well as
other knowledgeable observers, as lacking in the human**

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1 priority criteria necessary to ensure sufficient behavioral
2 health services for these children; and

3 WHEREAS, the interim legislative health and human
4 services committee has heard testimony for more than three
5 years that the behavioral health services under medicaid are
6 insufficient to adequately help children in need, particularly
7 those in treatment foster care; and

8 WHEREAS, among many shortcomings of medicaid managed care
9 is the lack of relevant permanency plans for children ten to
10 fifteen years of age; and

11 WHEREAS, there is a clear lack of sufficient group homes
12 and personnel trained to provide such services; and

13 WHEREAS, insufficient state and local treatment programs
14 and facilities for substance abuse and sexual abuse problems
15 continues to leave injured children shut off from developing
16 healthy and productive lives; and

17 WHEREAS, lack of local resources can mean removing
18 children from their families in order to obtain appropriate
19 help outside their communities and usually means delays in
20 returning such youth to their homes as treatment cannot be
21 completed in the absence of suitable programs; and

22 WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department is
23 in many cases the agency responsible for ensuring these
24 children receive care adequate to their needs; and

25 WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department is

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1 recognized for efforts to improve the availability and
2 competence of social workers necessary to ensure proper
3 attention and treatment for the state's many abused and
4 neglected children; and

5 WHEREAS, abused and neglected children need a strong
6 advocate to best represent their health interests with managed
7 care organizations created to produce profit;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children,
10 youth and families department make substantial efforts to
11 represent the abused and neglected children in its custody,
12 particularly in efforts to ensure that medicaid managed care
13 provide adequate behavioral health care, especially treatment
14 foster care, to permit these children to recover from their
15 traumatic experiences and become healthy, productive citizens;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the children, youth and families department.