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1 WHEREAS, small groups and low child-to-adult caregiver
2 ratios create environments that promote optimal development of
3 infants and toddlers; and

4 WHEREAS, adequate reimbursement rates for early childhood
5 teachers and caregivers is critical to retaining high-quality,
6 experienced personnel; and

7 WHEREAS, the New Mexico requirement of one adult caregiver
8 to every six infants, set by the children, youth and families
9 department, does not meet the nationally-recognized standard
10 for quality care for infants;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families
13 department be requested to appoint and lead a task force of
14 early childhood professionals to examine national best-practice
15 standards for infants-to-caregiver ratios and develop a plan to
16 implement a four-to-one ratio standard in all licensed child-
17 care settings; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
19 representatives of statewide groups of parents for the
20 education of young children, advocates for families and
21 children, child-care associations, family child-care groups,
22 early head-start groups, early childhood higher education and a
23 statewide pediatric association; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and
25 families department notify the legislative council of the

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1 appointees at its May 2001 meeting and report progress on the
2 work of the task force to the interim legislative health and
3 human services committee at its July 2001 meeting and present
4 its findings and recommendations to that committee and to the
5 legislative finance committee at their respective meetings in
6 November 2001; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 sent to the secretary of children, youth and families, to the
9 interim legislative health and human services committee and to
10 the legislative finance committee.

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