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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 37

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO
CONVENE A WORK GROUP OF URBAN AND RURAL CHILD CARE PROVIDERS,
CHILD CARE ADVOCATES AND OTHERS TO REVIEW THE CURRENT
PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING MARKET RATE REIMBURSEMENTS, REVIEW
THE FEDERAL REGISTER REQUIREMENTS FOR REIMBURSEMENTS AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO CHILD CARE FOR
CHILDREN AND FAIR MARKET REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR PROVIDERS.**

**WHEREAS, numerous studies show that quality early child
care and education for young children result in improved
educational outcomes and future success; and**

**WHEREAS, adequate child care reimbursement rates that
fund well-trained teachers and quality facilities are critical
to a system of quality care for infants, toddlers and young
people; and**

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1 WHEREAS, a system of child care payments that does not
2 reflect the realities of the market makes it economically
3 infeasible for many providers to serve low-income children,
4 who are the neediest children in New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department
6 conducts market rate surveys every two years, which should
7 accurately determine the state-subsidized payment rates that
8 are sufficient to ensure equal access to care for all
9 children; and

10 WHEREAS, significant disparities exist in New Mexico
11 between rural child care provider reimbursement rates and
12 urban child care provider reimbursement rates;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families
15 department be requested to convene a work group comprised of
16 both urban and rural child care providers, child care
17 advocates and others to study child care reimbursement rates;
18 and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be requested
20 to review the procedures currently in place for determining
21 market rate reimbursements, review the federal register
22 requirements for determining market rates and make
23 recommendations on ways to ensure both equal access to child
24 care for children and fair rates for providers; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group report its

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1 findings to the welfare reform oversight committee and the
2 legislative health and human services committee by December
3 31, 2002; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
5 forwarded to the children, youth and families department and
6 the chairs of the welfare reform oversight committee and the
7 legislative health and human services committee.

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