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**HOUSE MEMORIAL 33**

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

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Gail C. Beam**

**A MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS RECOGNIZE NEW  
MEXICO FOR ITS SUCCESS IN WELFARE REFORM**

**WHEREAS, the temporary assistance for needy families  
program provides cash assistance to unemployed and under-  
employed families through the New Mexico works program; and**

**WHEREAS, ninety percent of welfare recipients are single  
mothers raising young children and those children make up  
seventy percent of the welfare caseload; and**

**WHEREAS, the state's program that tracks current and  
former welfare recipients allows the human services department  
to be more responsive to its clients' particular needs and is  
recognized as one of the best tracking programs in the  
country; and**

**WHEREAS, approximately one-half of the current welfare**

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1 recipients are employed and utilizing work incentives,  
2 allowing the amount of cash assistance to be about one-half of  
3 what it would be without the employment; and

4 WHEREAS, although New Mexico ranks as one of the lowest  
5 states in per capita income, welfare recipients are able to  
6 increase their family income by combining cash assistance and  
7 earned income; and

8 WHEREAS, the state and federal government jointly fund  
9 this program, with the state being given more responsibility  
10 for administering its own program; and

11 WHEREAS, based on surveyed respondents, families in the  
12 state earn more after leaving the program than the national  
13 average; and

14 WHEREAS, of surveyed respondents who were no longer  
15 participating in the temporary assistance for needy families  
16 program in April 2000, only sixteen percent were reenrolled in  
17 the program one year later; and

18 WHEREAS, for able-bodied adult recipients, the New Mexico  
19 works program has become an effective work- and income-support  
20 program;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
23 congressional delegation be requested to urge the United  
24 States congress to recognize New Mexico for its success in  
25 using work incentives as part of the New Mexico works program,

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1 a work-encouraging and client-oriented program; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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