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SENATE MEMORIAL 26

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

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M Lopez

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 SENATE OF THE STATE
22 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional delegation be
23 requested to urge the United States congress to recognize New
24 Mexico for its success in using work incentives as part of the
25 New Mexico works program, a work-encouraging and client-

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1 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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