

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

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FOR THE WELFARE REFORM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO PROMULGATE A RULE ENABLING HOMELESS SHELTER ADDRESSES TO BE USED AS POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION FOR CASH ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.

WHEREAS, cash assistance benefits available through the temporary assistance for needy families program cannot currently be distributed without a physical address; and

WHEREAS, homeless persons have no address yet frequently need cash assistance; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of providers of services for homeless clients has documented that some seventeen thousand New Mexicans experience homelessness during a given year, and approximately thirty percent of the homeless are families with children; and

WHEREAS, a point-in-time count of the homeless in New

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1 Mexico on one night in January 2005 showed a total of five
2 thousand two hundred fifty-six persons, one thousand eight
3 hundred ninety-one of them families with children; and

4 WHEREAS, receiving cash assistance through temporary
5 assistance for needy families benefits might make it possible
6 for children to move from the streets and into homes; and

7 WHEREAS, there are a limited number of homeless shelters
8 serving the homeless population of New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, using the addresses of homeless shelters as
10 distribution points for cash assistance benefits might enable
11 some of the homeless to receive benefits not otherwise
12 available to them;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be
15 requested to promulgate a rule enabling homeless shelter
16 addresses to be used as distribution points for cash assistance
17 benefits available through the temporary assistance for needy
18 families program; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
20 identify the street addresses of commonly used homeless
21 shelters throughout the state in order to make distribution
22 possible; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the secretary of human services.