

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE, TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF USING SENIOR CITIZENS TO ASSIST WITH PROVIDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR PRESCHOOLERS.

WHEREAS, the challenges facing New Mexico, from school dropout rates, to crime, to rising health care costs, to competing globally, can only be met by a focus on the development of all children, beginning at birth; and

WHEREAS, from birth on, young children grow, develop and learn skills to serve them in the primary grades; and

WHEREAS, ninety percent of a child's brain development occurs in the first three years of life; and

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, relationships with family members, caregivers and
2 teachers provide important learning tools for children; and

3 WHEREAS, children gain verbal and nonverbal communication
4 skills from interactions with others; and

5 WHEREAS, early childhood education provides a strong start
6 and a firm foundation for school success; and

7 WHEREAS, early childhood education is important because
8 far too many children enter school not prepared, and unprepared
9 children tend to fall further and further behind once school
10 begins; and

11 WHEREAS, there is growing recognition that the key to
12 better student development and achievement is the prevention of
13 problems before children begin attendance at school; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico's even start family literacy program,
15 full-day kindergarten literacy readiness program and pre-
16 kindergarten programs all provide valuable early childhood
17 educational opportunities; and

18 WHEREAS, expanding access to early childhood education is
19 among one of the smartest investments that the state can make;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, additional funding for early childhood programs
22 needs to be complemented by creative approaches that engage and
23 use community resources; and

24 WHEREAS, United States census bureau statistics show that
25 the population age sixty-five and older is growing faster than

.195812.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 the total population; and

2 WHEREAS, senior citizens have the time to volunteer and be
3 engaged in their communities; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico's senior citizens represent a huge
5 reserve of knowledge, experience and skills that could be
6 harnessed to assist in the provision of early childhood
7 programs; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico would gain by tapping into this vast
9 resource if senior citizens volunteer to assist as preschool
10 caregivers or in an educational setting;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE
12 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study committee,
13 in cooperation with the public education department, the
14 children, youth and families department and the legislative
15 finance committee, be requested to study the feasibility of
16 using senior citizens to assist with providing early childhood
17 education for preschoolers; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
19 study committee be requested to report its findings and
20 conclusions to the legislature and the governor prior to the
21 2015 legislative session; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the legislative education study committee; the
24 public education department; the children, youth and families
25 department; the American association of retired persons; the

.195812.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 aging and long-term services department; and the legislative
2 finance committee.

3 - 4 -
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

.195812.1