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SENATE MEMORIAL 69

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER TO RECONVENE THE J. PAUL TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE TO CONTINUE THE TASK FORCE'S WORK IN IMPROVING COLLABORATION AMONG STAKEHOLDERS AND DEVELOPING FURTHER AN EARLY CHILDHOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN.

WHEREAS, in the 2013 first session of the fifty-first legislature, and in the 2014 first session of the fifty-second legislature, House Memorial 75 and Senate Memorial 5 were passed respectively, requesting the university of New Mexico health sciences center to convene the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force in honor of former legislator and tireless children's advocate J. Paul Taylor; and

WHEREAS, during 2014, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has built solidly on its first year by expanding

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1 participation to include the human services department, the
2 four medicaid managed-care organizations and the legislative
3 finance committee; and

4 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
5 worked collaboratively with a broad-based coalition of state,
6 managed-care, medical, community and legislative stakeholders
7 to identify gaps in funding and develop a system to recognize
8 and respond to risk factors in young children and their
9 families; and

10 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
11 developed recommendations to strengthen the state's early
12 childhood behavioral health services system to respond to risk
13 in children and families, including recommendations to modify
14 medicaid funding and billing and develop needed linkages among
15 primary and behavioral health and community systems; and

16 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
17 served for two years to successfully create a public-health-
18 driven early childhood behavioral health action plan for
19 infants and children to age eight and their families; and

20 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
21 worked to develop a system to identify unserved and underserved
22 at-risk children and families; and

23 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
24 promoted evidence-based local community behavioral health
25 programs in New Mexico; and

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1 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
2 worked to identify how current service delivery systems could
3 be used for the prevention of child abuse and neglect; and

4 WHEREAS, the work of the J. Paul Taylor early childhood
5 task force has built upon New Mexico's existing structures by
6 creating linkages among health, behavioral health and community
7 systems to establish a coherent, efficient and accessible
8 infrastructure to recognize and respond to risk factors in
9 families that place infants and young children at risk for
10 their health development, health and safety; and

11 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
12 reviewed existing state data systems that could be used to
13 collect critical data to support rigorous evaluation of
14 programs and the promotion of evidence-based programming; and

15 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
16 developed a budget-neutral state policy for early childhood
17 behavioral health and child abuse prevention by maximizing
18 efficiencies through existing systems, connections and
19 enhancements, including maximizing dollars that already exist
20 in state and federal funding streams that are required for
21 successful implementation; and

22 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
23 presented its preliminary recommendations to the legislative
24 finance committee and to the legislative health and human
25 services committee during the 2014 interim; and

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1 WHEREAS, among the preliminary recommendations of the J.
2 Paul Taylor early childhood task force was the recommendation
3 that the task force's work be continued for another year to
4 allow it to work collaboratively for the successful
5 implementation of the infant and early childhood behavioral
6 health action plan and child abuse prevention plan;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
8 OF NEW MEXICO that the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task
9 force be requested to continue improving collaboration among
10 stakeholders to support the implementation and
11 sustainability of the recommended early childhood behavioral
12 health action plan and child abuse prevention plan, including
13 the development of reimbursement and billing code modifications
14 and data collection for program evaluation; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the J. Paul Taylor early
16 childhood task force recommend best practices for a trauma-
17 informed community service and state delivery system, including
18 recommendations for a work force development training plan to
19 sustain the infant and early childhood behavioral health action
20 plan; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the J. Paul Taylor task force
22 be requested to expand its membership to include experts from
23 the university of New Mexico school of law and Pegasus legal
24 services for children; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative

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1 council be requested to charge the chair and vice chair of the
2 legislative finance committee and the chair and vice chair of
3 the legislative health and human services committee with a
4 review of the feasibility of the J. Paul Taylor early childhood
5 task force's preliminary recommendations with respect to the
6 budgeting, oversight, data collection and reporting
7 requirements that those recommendations will entail; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the legislative
10 health and human services committee, the chair of the
11 legislative finance committee, the secretary of children, youth
12 and families and the chancellor for health sciences of the
13 university of New Mexico.