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HOUSE MEMORIAL 30

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio Maestas and Marian Matthews and Daymon Ely
and Joy Garratt

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE PROPOSED FAMILY SUCCESS
LAB.

WHEREAS, the Annie E. Casey foundation kids count data
center ranks New Mexico fiftieth with respect to child well-
being; and

WHEREAS, twenty-seven percent of children in New Mexico
live in poverty that is likely generational; and

WHEREAS, from July 2018 to June 2019, eleven thousand five
hundred twenty children in New Mexico had a case of abuse or
neglect substantiated by the children, youth and families
department; and

WHEREAS, ten percent of children in New Mexico will have a
parent incarcerated at some point in their lives; and

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1 WHEREAS, one out of four children in New Mexico
2 experiences food insecurity; and

3 WHEREAS, an estimated twenty percent of children in New
4 Mexico have one or more emotional, behavioral or developmental
5 issues; and

6 WHEREAS, adults in New Mexico have some of the highest
7 rates of alcohol-related deaths and deaths attributable to
8 suicide and also a high prevalence of mental illness, according
9 to the "State of Health in New Mexico 2018" report by the
10 department of health; and

11 WHEREAS, there is ample evidence that these issues have
12 correlating and related root causes and symptoms; and

13 WHEREAS, for many families in New Mexico, these root
14 causes and symptoms are addressed in silos by multiple
15 government systems and agencies, including the department of
16 health, the public education department, the human services
17 department, the children, youth and families department and the
18 corrections department; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico appleseed estimates that New Mexico
20 may be spending nine hundred million dollars (\$900,000,000)
21 annually on sixteen thousand of these complex and fragile
22 multi-system families; and

23 WHEREAS, the legislature has difficulty determining if
24 appropriations to state agencies have resulted in positive or
25 negative outcomes; and

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1 WHEREAS, state agencies have difficulty effectively
2 targeting interventions, evaluating programs or developing
3 evidence-based policies; and

4 WHEREAS, the creation of a state entity focused on
5 addressing root causes and symptoms by providing the evidence
6 to state agencies, the legislature and researchers to
7 effectively target interventions, evaluate programs and develop
8 effective policies is critical to ending the cycles of poverty,
9 abuse and neglect, incarceration and poor educational, health
10 and life outcomes; and

11 WHEREAS, the late Senator Carlos R. Cisneros supported the
12 creation of such an entity to assist with policymaking to
13 improve the lives of children in New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, the proposed family success lab could identify
15 policies to improve outcomes for multi-system families and
16 improve the overall well-being of children in New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, the proposed family success lab could assist
18 agencies in how they evaluate their programs and promote good
19 stewardship of taxpayer dollars;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
22 of health be requested to study the feasibility of establishing
23 a pilot program for the proposed family success lab, to be the
24 research and analytic arm of the state and use anonymized data
25 to evaluate programs and develop evidence-based policy; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
2 requested to work with other state agencies to identify the
3 following:

4 A. administrative data that would be relevant to
5 the mission of the family success lab;

6 B. legal, administrative and technological
7 solutions to sharing administrative data;

8 C. best practices with respect to data stewardship,
9 security, anonymization and ethics;

10 D. any other existing data integration efforts that
11 can be leveraged to implement the family success lab;

12 E. options to address research questions affecting
13 multi-system families and children in New Mexico; and

14 F. sustainable funding streams for the family
15 success lab; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be
17 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the
18 office of the governor and the appropriate interim legislative
19 committee by November 1, 2020; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of public
22 education, the secretary of human services, the secretary of
23 children, youth and families and the secretary of corrections.