

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 William P. Soules

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT RESOLUTION

11 PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO
12 BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 25 TO ESTABLISH RIGHTS OF CHILDREN TO
13 INCLUDE HEALTH CARE, NUTRITION, SAFE HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION TO
14 ACCESS SERVICES, HOME VISITATION, EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS,
15 FULLY RESOURCED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS,
16 YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS AND ATTAINMENT OF SKILLS FOR QUALITY
17 EMPLOYMENT; AND TO REQUIRE ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF
18 LAWS TO PROTECT THOSE RIGHTS.

19
20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

21 SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 2 of the
22 constitution of New Mexico by adding a new Section 25 to read:

23 "A. Children have the following rights:

24 (1) the right to medical and dental health
25 care that is timely and accessible;

.230255.1

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

1 (2) the right to behavioral health care that
2 is solution-focused and culturally sensitive, available to all
3 children's families and household members;

4 (3) the right to nutritious food without
5 having to endure hunger, food insecurity or stigma;

6 (4) the right to stable, healthy and safe
7 housing with electricity, plumbing, heat and internet access;

8 (5) the right to transportation in order to
9 reach educational, recreational and vital services;

10 (6) the right to live in a community that
11 provides home visitation programs starting at birth to ensure
12 safe households, parental support and education and navigation
13 to local vital services;

14 (7) the right to early childhood learning
15 programs that prepare children for school;

16 (8) the right to fully resourced community
17 schools, with staffing to ensure an enriching academic and
18 cultural experience, as well as a school-based health center to
19 provide medical, dental and mental health care to students and
20 family members;

21 (9) the right to youth mentorship programs in
22 many forms in order to support recreational activities and
23 strengthen physical health, academic skills and interpersonal
24 communication skills; and

25 (10) the right to acquire all the skills

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

1 needed to maintain quality employment, including education
2 aligned with job markets and job readiness and placement
3 programs.

4 B. The provisions of this amendment shall not take
5 effect until the legislature enacts laws to implement this
6 amendment."

7 SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution
8 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or
9 rejection at the next general election or at any special
10 election prior to that date that may be called for that
11 purpose.