

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 57

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

J. Paul Taylor

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO  
STUDY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS OF PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE AND  
RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND FAMILY  
SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the majority of New Mexico's early childhood  
education and family support professionals have limited or no  
health insurance or retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, the lack of health insurance and retirement  
benefits is a major contributing factor in the high rate of  
turnover in the field, and access to these benefits may result  
in greater retention of early childhood education and family  
support professionals; and

WHEREAS, the lack of health insurance and retirement  
benefits contributes to fewer qualified people being attracted

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1 to the field; and

2 WHEREAS, continuity of caregivers is critical to ensuring  
3 high-quality educational experiences for young children; and

4 WHEREAS, research shows that high-quality education for  
5 young children results in improved educational outcomes,  
6 reduced costs and reduced needs for special education and  
7 delinquency programs later on; and

8 WHEREAS, models for providing health insurance and  
9 retirement benefits exist in other states;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of child development of  
12 the children, youth and families department be requested to  
13 lead a study of all possible means of providing health  
14 insurance and retirement benefits for early childhood  
15 education and family support professionals; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to accomplish the study, the  
17 children, youth and families department include representation  
18 from early childhood educators, professionals, associations  
19 and organizations representing the needs of young children and  
20 the professionals who care for them, as well as from the  
21 department of health and the state department of public  
22 education; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a review  
24 of successful models in other states and development of a plan  
25 to make health insurance and retirement benefits available for

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1 these professionals; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and  
3 families department and the office of child development report  
4 progress and recommendations to the legislative education  
5 study committee and the legislative health and human services  
6 committee at their respective October 2002 meetings; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
8 sent to the children, youth and families department, the  
9 department of health, the state department of public  
10 education, the legislative education study committee, the  
11 legislative health and human services committee and other  
12 appropriate parties.

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