

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND EXECUTIVE AGENCIES TO MAKE "KIDS  
— NEW MEXICO'S NUMBER ONE PRIORITY".

WHEREAS, children are the most precious resource and represent the  
future of the state; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico continues to be in the bottom tier of states on  
several national statistics that rate state performance on child welfare issues,  
including high rates of teen pregnancy, child mortality and morbidity, children living  
in poverty and school dropouts; and

WHEREAS, state and local policymakers need to continue to redouble their  
efforts toward improving New Mexico's ranking among the states in child welfare  
and to do more to raise the consciousness of New Mexico citizens as to the plight of  
children in the state; and

WHEREAS, policymakers should be constantly aware of how their decisions  
affect New Mexico children and families; and

WHEREAS, every department of state government has a major contribution  
to make toward the improvement of children's lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature and the executive dedicate  
themselves to working together to ensure that state policies consider the effect on  
New Mexico's families and children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor request his cabinet to make  
"Kids — New Mexico's Number One Priority" in 2004 and focus on ways to improve

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the lives of New Mexico's children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to  
the governor.

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