

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO GATHER AND TRACK MORE AGGREGATE INFORMATION ON PERSONS WHO APPLY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

WHEREAS, the legislative health and human services committee regularly requires additional information on the working poor in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, understanding the needs of and the services now available to medicaid recipients and temporary assistance for needy families recipients will help the legislature plan for the future; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that people who have jobs may still require public assistance due to the limitations of their salaries and benefits could help legislators tailor state benefits to the actual needs of public assistance clients; and

WHEREAS, collecting information on the employers of persons on public assistance could help policymakers as they make decisions on future benefits, services and opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be requested to change its application forms for public assistance to include information about the current employment of medicaid applicants and temporary assistance for needy families applicants, the applicants'

dependents and fellow household members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that information collected include the name of the employer of the applicant and the name of the city in which the applicant works; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of human services report annually to the interim legislative health and human services committee on the employers listed on fifty or more applications for public assistance, the name of any employer listed fifty or more times in a single year and the number of times the employer was listed by applicants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report contain no personally identifiable information about the applicant, the applicant's dependents or fellow household members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor and to the secretary of human services.