

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Richard C. Martinez

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES TO
12 STUDY THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE FOR
13 GRANDPARENTS WITH LIMITED INCOMES WHO ARE RAISING THEIR
14 GRANDCHILDREN.

15
16 WHEREAS, grandparents in New Mexico are increasingly
17 undertaking the challenges and joys of raising their
18 grandchildren when parents are unable, for a variety of
19 reasons, to raise their own children; and

20 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren often confront
21 significant financial hardship in taking on the full-time care
22 of their grandchildren; and

23 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren frequently
24 find themselves living in poverty and struggling to care for
25 their grandchildren; and

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1 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren are often
2 faced with their own health issues, which can further
3 exacerbate difficult financial circumstances; and

4 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren may face
5 barriers to formal adoption or guardianship of their
6 grandchildren, such as the lack of affordable legal assistance;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren often have
9 difficulty navigating government and community support systems
10 for their grandchildren because they lack the authority to make
11 legal decisions on behalf of their grandchildren; and

12 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren are often
13 ineligible for the financial resources that are available to
14 foster care providers; and

15 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state that a child should
16 be raised by family members or kinship caregivers whenever
17 possible; and

18 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren should have
19 access to the tools and resources that are needed to nurture
20 their grandchildren and ensure that they reach their full
21 potential; and

22 WHEREAS, Las Cumbres community services, inc., is an
23 organization that provides ongoing services for grandparents
24 through an active support group, statewide conferences and
25 other services that address the issues and struggles being

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1 faced by grandparents raising grandchildren; and

2 WHEREAS, despite the existence of community support
3 organizations such as Las Cumbres community services, inc.,
4 there remains an unmet need for financial, legal and community
5 resources to support grandparents who have undertaken the
6 responsibility of caring for their grandchildren;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of children, youth and
9 families be requested to conduct a study of the situation faced
10 by grandparents raising grandchildren in the state; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should include an
12 examination of issues affecting custody and guardianship and
13 the availability of resources and assistance, including
14 financial resources; legal services; food and housing
15 assistance; community-based support organizations, such as Las
16 Cumbres community services, inc.; and programs related to
17 medical care, transportation and education; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should incorporate
19 input from the human services department and the public
20 education department; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the study be
22 reported to the legislative health and human services committee
23 by October 2014; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the children, youth and families department, the

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1 human services department, the public education department and
2 the legislative health and human services committee.

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