

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE EXTENDED TO STUDY AND
3 RECOMMEND POLICY CHANGES TO EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF
4 RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE FOR GRANDPARENTS RAISING
5 GRANDCHILDREN.

6
7 WHEREAS, in 2014 the children, youth and families
8 department published a study on the availability of resources
9 to grandparents raising grandchildren, which study revealed a
10 dearth of public services and resources available to
11 grandparents raising grandchildren and, in particular, to
12 grandparents who lack legal custody of their grandchildren;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, a task force was convened in 2015 to study and
15 recommend concrete policy changes that could be implemented
16 to expand the availability of resources and assistance to
17 grandparents raising grandchildren, including financial
18 resources; legal services; and assistance with food, housing,
19 medical care, child care, transportation and education; and

20 WHEREAS, the task force delivered its recommendations in
21 2016 to the legislative health and human services committee
22 and the legislative finance committee; and

23 WHEREAS, the recommendations included extending the task
24 force for an additional year to continue its studies and
25 refine its recommendations;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the task force, including members
3 who represent New Mexico voices for children, Pegasus legal
4 services for children, the New Mexico coalition of
5 educational leaders, court appointed special advocates for
6 children, the New Mexico parent-teacher association, parents
7 reaching out, the American association of retired persons and
8 Las Cumbres community services, inc.; one representative each
9 from the human services department, the children, youth and
10 families department, the children's court, the public
11 education department, the aging and long-term services
12 department and the office of the attorney general; and two
13 members from the general public, be extended; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study and
15 recommend concrete policy changes that could be implemented
16 in order to expand the availability of resources and
17 assistance to grandparents raising grandchildren, including
18 financial resources and, particularly, the provision of
19 maintenance payments for the care and support of children
20 placed in the care of a kinship caregiver; legal services;
21 food and housing assistance; and programs relating to medical
22 care, child care, transportation and education; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services
24 department, the children, youth and families department and
25 the aging and long-term services department be requested to

1 coordinate and provide staff support to the task force; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
3 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and
4 human services committee and the legislative finance
5 committee no later than November 2017; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the secretary
8 of children, youth and families and the secretary of aging and
9 long-term services. _____

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