

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 10

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Linda M. Lopez

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING, HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND  
12 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.

13  
14 WHEREAS, more than thirty-three thousand children in New  
15 Mexico are living with a grandparent who is responsible for  
16 their care and well-being; and

17 WHEREAS, grandfamilies are often created suddenly in  
18 response to an acute crisis involving the parents of the  
19 grandchildren, so there is no opportunity to plan in advance  
20 for the addition of grandchildren to the grandparents'  
21 household; and

22 WHEREAS, at least fifty percent of grandparents raising  
23 grandchildren have incomes below the federal poverty level,  
24 causing the addition of dependent grandchildren to the  
25 household to place immediate strain on family finances and

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1 creating an urgent need for access to resources and assistance;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, what resources and assistance that are available  
4 for grandparents raising grandchildren are provided through  
5 numerous different systems and there is no centralized process  
6 to access the support that may be available, further increasing  
7 stress on grandparents, who need immediate help in navigating  
8 the multiple systems involved in providing care for their  
9 grandchildren; and

10 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren face numerous  
11 other obstacles, including lack of access to quality behavioral  
12 health care services, difficulties enrolling grandchildren in  
13 school, possible eviction from rental housing due to the  
14 additional residents, lack of access to child care and lack of  
15 access to legal services; and

16 WHEREAS, in spite of all of the almost-insurmountable  
17 difficulties, grandparents continue to take in grandchildren  
18 and provide them love, care, support and hope; and

19 WHEREAS, the grandchildren cared for by their grandparents  
20 are New Mexico's treasure, and the future of the state depends  
21 on them;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that grandparents raising grandchildren be  
24 recognized, honored and celebrated for their devoted efforts on  
25 behalf of their grandchildren and the people of the state of

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New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to New Mexico voices for children, Pegasus legal services for children, the New Mexico coalition of educational leaders, New Mexico court appointed special advocates, the New Mexico PTA, parents reaching out, AARP New Mexico, Las Cumbres community services, the human services department, the children, youth and families department, the children's court, the public education department, the aging and long-term services department and the office of the attorney general.