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SENATE MEMORIAL 92

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

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

A MEMORIAL

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

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

WHEREAS, a task force was convened in 2015 to study and
recommend concrete policy changes that could be implemented to
expand the availability of resources and assistance to
grandparents raising grandchildren, including financial
resources; legal services; and assistance with food, housing,

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1 medical care, child care, transportation and education; and

2 WHEREAS, the task force delivered its recommendations in
3 2016 to the legislative health and human services committee and
4 the legislative finance committee; and

5 WHEREAS, the recommendations included extending the task
6 force for an additional year to continue its studies and refine
7 its recommendations;

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

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study and
22 recommend concrete policy changes that could be implemented in
23 order to expand the availability of resources and assistance to
24 grandparents raising grandchildren, including financial
25 resources and, particularly, the provision of maintenance

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1 payments for the care and support of children placed in the
2 care of a kinship caregiver; legal services; food and housing
3 assistance; and programs relating to medical care, child care,
4 transportation and education; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department,
6 the children, youth and families department and the aging and
7 long-term services department be requested to coordinate and
8 provide staff support to the task force; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
10 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and
11 human services committee and the legislative finance committee
12 no later than November 2017; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the secretary
15 of children, youth and families and the secretary of aging and
16 long-term services.

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