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HOUSE MEMORIAL 94

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Rodolopho “Rudy” S. Martinez and Javier Martínez

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, 2016 and 2017
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,

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

3 WHEREAS, the task force delivered its recommendations in
4 2017 to the legislative finance committee; and

5 WHEREAS, the task force recommended further study of the
6 issue of placement of children with caregivers, including
7 grandparents, by the children, youth and families department
8 and the lack of information and support for those caregivers;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the task force also recommended further study of
11 the issue of the denial of public benefits to children being
12 raised by grandparents and other caregivers due to inaccurate
13 information from and lack of training of case managers at the
14 income support division of the human services department; and

15 WHEREAS, the recommendations included extending the task
16 force for an additional year to continue its studies and refine
17 its recommendations;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the task force,
20 including members who represent New Mexico voices for children,
21 Pegasus legal services for children, the New Mexico coalition
22 of educational leaders, court appointed special advocates for
23 children, the New Mexico parent-teacher association, parents
24 reaching out, the AARP, disability rights New Mexico, the
25 developmental disabilities planning council and Las Cumbres

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1 community services, incorporated; one representative each from
2 the human services department, the children, youth and families
3 department, the department of health, the children's court, the
4 public education department, the aging and long-term services
5 department and the office of the attorney general; and two
6 members from the general public, be extended; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study and
8 recommend concrete policy changes that could be implemented to
9 expand the availability of resources and assistance to
10 grandparents raising grandchildren, including financial
11 resources; legal services; food and housing assistance; and
12 programs relating to medical care, child care, transportation
13 and education; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department,
15 the children, youth and families department and the aging and
16 long-term services department be requested to coordinate and
17 provide staff support to the task force; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
19 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and
20 human services committee and the legislative finance committee
21 no later than November 2018; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the secretary
24 of children, youth and families and the secretary of aging and
25 long-term services.

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