

HOUSE FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 10

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES TO
CONVENE A CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND
CHANGES FOR IMPROVING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN IN
THE CARE OF THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM BY IMPROVING
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
DEPARTMENT AND RESOURCE FAMILIES, FOR BETTER SUPPORTING
RESOURCE FAMILIES AND FOR COLLABORATIVELY WORKING TOWARD BETTER
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF RESOURCE FAMILIES.

WHEREAS, the child protective services division of the
children, youth and families department serves the state's most
vulnerable populations, who are children in need of the state's
intervention and protection; and

WHEREAS, resource families, which include foster families
and families led by guardians and kinship caregivers, are

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1 families led by individuals who volunteer their time, energy
2 and resources to provide a safe home for children in need of
3 intervention and protection; and

4 WHEREAS, stakeholders, including resource families, law
5 enforcement, educational professionals and behavioral health
6 and medical professionals, have identified numerous critical
7 issues in the child protective services system that they want
8 to be addressed and that need to be rectified in order to
9 better promote the safety and security of children being cared
10 for by resource parents; and

11 WHEREAS, these stakeholders also seek to improve their
12 relationship with the protective services division of the
13 children, youth and families department; and

14 WHEREAS, many resource parents report feeling
15 disenfranchised by current rules and procedures; and

16 WHEREAS, many populations of youth within the foster care
17 system have specific needs that need to be addressed; and

18 WHEREAS, the purpose of child protective services is to
19 prevent reoccurring child abuse and traumatization of children
20 in New Mexico;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of children, youth and
23 families be requested to convene a child protective services
24 task force to make recommendations to the children, youth and
25 families department for improving the safety and well-being of

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1 children in the care of the child protective services system by
2 improving the relationship between the children, youth and
3 families department and resource families, for better
4 supporting resource families and for collaboratively working
5 toward better recruitment and retention of resource families;
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
8 to:

9 A. recommend the implementation in all protective
10 services division offices and programs throughout the state of
11 uniform and consistent policies and procedures, and a plan to
12 implement those policies and procedures to ensure that resource
13 families are appropriately supported, recruited and retained;

14 B. recommend measures to ensure that all children,
15 youth and families department rules are made easily available
16 to every resource family, as well as all interested
17 stakeholders and members of the general public;

18 C. recommend measures to ensure that current rules
19 and procedures support New Mexicans who devote themselves to
20 being resource families and streamline the foster care system
21 to reduce bureaucratic burdens on resource families;

22 D. review training, support and ongoing
23 opportunities to retain resource families, to study resource
24 family retention and to determine desired and needed training
25 topics and best sources of support;

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1 E. analyze family reintegration policies,
2 procedures and practices and recommend safeguards to create
3 safe and lasting reintegration of families;

4 F. study the benefits of placement stability to
5 avoid multiple, disruptive placements; and

6 G. identify better ways to recruit, support and
7 retain resources that resource families and children and family
8 service providers need to support the state's most vulnerable
9 population; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of children,
11 youth and families be requested to include the following
12 participants in the task force:

- 13 A. the director of the children's cabinet;
- 14 B. the secretary of aging and long-term services;
- 15 C. two foster parents;
- 16 D. a guardian of a child;
- 17 E. two kinship caregivers;
- 18 F. a licensed medical physical health expert;
- 19 G. a licensed behavioral health expert;
- 20 H. an expert representative of law enforcement;
- 21 I. a classified children, youth and families
22 department employee;
- 23 J. a family reintegration expert; and
- 24 K. a children's court improvement commission
25 representative; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of children,
2 youth and families be requested to invite to participate in
3 discussions of the child protective services task force as
4 appropriate:

- 5 A. a child care services or other children's
6 service provider;
- 7 B. a court-appointed special advocate;
- 8 C. an expert in education;
- 9 D. an expert from a nonprofit children's advocacy
10 organization;
- 11 E. a representative of a sexual minority community;
- 12 F. a representative of a gender minority community;
- 13 G. an expert on the federal Indian Child Welfare
14 Act of 1978; and

15 H. other stakeholders whose expertise the secretary
16 of children, youth and families deems necessary to the work of
17 the child protective services task force; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that findings and recommendations
19 of the task force be presented to the legislative health and
20 human services committee by October 1, 2020; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the legislative
23 health and human services committee, the secretary of children,
24 youth and families, the co-chairs of the children's court
25 improvement commission, the director of the child protective

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2 department and the director of the children's cabinet.

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