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HOUSE MEMORIAL 22

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Patricia Roybal Caballero

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW MEXICO BASIC INCOME FOR LOW-INCOME NEW MEXICANS AND TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, according to the United States census bureau, as of 2020, New Mexico has the second highest rate of poverty in the nation, with eighteen and two-tenths percent of New Mexicans living below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States census bureau, as of 2020, New Mexico has the second highest rate of childhood poverty in the nation, with twenty-four and seven-tenths percent of New Mexican children living below the poverty level; and

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1 WHEREAS, according to the United States bureau of labor
2 statistics, as of September 2021, New Mexico has one of the
3 highest unemployment rates in the nation, at seven and two-
4 tenths percent; and

5 WHEREAS, according to the workforce solutions department,
6 as of June 2021, New Mexico has a low labor force participation
7 rate of fifty-seven and two-tenths percent, and that rate
8 continues to decline; and

9 WHEREAS, as of 2017, twenty-nine and nine-tenths percent
10 of jobs in New Mexico have a median annual pay below one
11 hundred percent of the poverty level for a family of four and
12 are considered low-wage jobs; and

13 WHEREAS, as of May 2021, forty-four percent of New Mexico
14 residents were enrolled in medicaid; and

15 WHEREAS, "universal basic income" is defined as a
16 government-guaranteed payment that each citizen receives; and

17 WHEREAS, universal basic income is intended to provide
18 money to citizens so that they can pay for necessities, whether
19 or not they are employed; and

20 WHEREAS, universal basic income is not intended to replace
21 jobs; and

22 WHEREAS, the national bureau of economic research
23 concluded that universal and basic cash transfers do not
24 significantly decrease aggregate employment; and

25 WHEREAS, universal basic income studies have concluded

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1 that universal basic income boosts recipients' mental and
2 financial well-being, improves employment rates and enables
3 recipients to find full-time employment and pursue new
4 opportunities; and

5 WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation is piloting a universal basic
6 income program using federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
7 Economic Security Act funding; and

8 WHEREAS, numerous cities and countries around the globe
9 have instituted or studied some form of universal basic income;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the cities of Santa Fe and Las Cruces are
12 considering implementing basic income programs;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
15 of human services and the secretary of workforce solutions be
16 requested to convene a task force to study the impact that
17 implementing a New Mexico basic income program for low-income
18 New Mexicans would have on low-income New Mexicans and to make
19 recommendations for implementing such a program; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of
21 representatives of community organizations working on behalf of
22 low-income communities and those agencies and organizations
23 already working with those communities; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a representative from the
25 office of the governor who is identified as working on issues

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1 affecting low-income New Mexicans be invited to participate in
2 the task force by those agencies convening the task force; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
4 findings and recommendations and provide copies of its written
5 report to the legislative finance committee and the chair and
6 members of the legislative health and human services committee
7 and any other appropriate legislative interim committees by
8 November 1, 2022; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the secretary
11 of workforce solutions, the director of the legislative finance
12 committee and the chair of the legislative health and human
13 services committee.