

1 A MEMORIAL

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

6  
7 WHEREAS, in 2014, the children, youth and families  
8 department published a study on the availability of resources  
9 to grandparents raising grandchildren, which study revealed a  
10 dearth of public services and resources available to  
11 grandparents raising grandchildren and, in particular, to  
12 grandparents who lack legal custody of their grandchildren;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, a task force was convened in 2015, 2016 and  
15 2017 to study and recommend concrete policy changes that  
16 could be implemented to expand the availability of resources  
17 and assistance to grandparents raising grandchildren,  
18 including financial resources; legal services; and assistance  
19 with food, housing, medical care, child care, transportation  
20 and education; and

21 WHEREAS, the task force delivered its recommendations in  
22 2017 to the legislative finance committee; and

23 WHEREAS, the task force recommended further study of the  
24 issue of placement of children with caregivers, including  
25 grandparents, by the children, youth and families department

1 and the lack of information and support for those caregivers;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the task force also recommended further study  
4 of the issue of the denial of public benefits to children  
5 being raised by grandparents and other caregivers due to  
6 inaccurate information from and lack of training of case  
7 managers at the income support division of the human services  
8 department; and

9 WHEREAS, the recommendations included extending the task  
10 force for an additional year to continue its studies and  
11 refine its recommendations;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the task  
14 force, including members who represent New Mexico voices for  
15 children, Pegasus legal services for children, the New Mexico  
16 coalition of educational leaders, court appointed special  
17 advocates for children, the New Mexico parent-teacher  
18 association, parents reaching out, the AARP, disability  
19 rights New Mexico, the developmental disabilities planning  
20 council and Las Cumbres community services, incorporated; one  
21 representative each from the human services department, the  
22 children, youth and families department, the department of  
23 health, the children's court, the public education  
24 department, the aging and long-term services department and  
25 the office of the attorney general; and two members from the

1 general public, be extended; and

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

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services  
10 department, the children, youth and families department and  
11 the aging and long-term services department be requested to  
12 coordinate and provide staff support to the task force; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its  
14 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and  
15 human services committee and the legislative finance  
16 committee no later than November 2018; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the secretary  
19 of children, youth and families and the secretary of aging and  
20 long-term services.

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