

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO AND MEMBERS OF THE  
3 2020 J. PAUL TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE AND REQUESTING  
4 THEM TO RECONVENE THE J. PAUL TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK  
5 FORCE IN 2021.

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7 WHEREAS, since 2013, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood  
8 task force has been made up of experts in child well-being,  
9 early childhood development, health care, social work,  
10 education, government, public benefits, law and  
11 administration as well as other areas of expertise; and

12 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force  
13 has met at the legislature's request to analyze matters  
14 relating to the prevention of adverse childhood experiences  
15 and support of the education and health of children and  
16 families, and to make recommendations on improving the  
17 prevention of adverse childhood experiences, specifically  
18 child neglect, and improving the early education of children  
19 and their families by advising the legislature and other  
20 policymakers; and

21 WHEREAS, in recent years, the university of New Mexico  
22 has volunteered to convene and provide administrative support  
23 for the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force; and

24 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force  
25 is named for former long-time member of the New Mexico house

1 of representatives, J. Paul Taylor, of Mesilla, New Mexico,  
2 who has contributed greatly to the field of children's rights  
3 and well-being during his long and distinguished career in  
4 public service; and

5 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force  
6 has done much in recent years to educate the legislature and  
7 other policymakers on critical aspects of childhood  
8 development and the role that policymakers play in supporting  
9 the health and well-being of children and their families; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2018, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood  
11 task force recommended changes to state law that would  
12 clarify the role of hospitals and birthing centers in  
13 referring abuse and neglect cases to the children, youth and  
14 families department based solely on the finding of a pregnant  
15 woman's positive toxicology screen; and

16 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force  
17 engaged with various stakeholders, including the  
18 Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act task force at the  
19 children, youth and families department, to incorporate into  
20 its recommendations various federal requirements for the safe  
21 care of infants born with substance use disorders or showing  
22 withdrawal symptoms; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2019 and 2020, the J. Paul Taylor early  
24 childhood task force presented its findings to the  
25 legislative health and human services committee about best

1 practices for implementing treatment-focused plans of care  
2 for substance-exposed newborns and their families; and

3 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force  
4 plans to continue its work on recommendations to address the  
5 effect of substance use on pregnant women and children in the  
6 first three years of life, specifically to study and build  
7 upon the recommendations of the task force for a pathway to  
8 comprehensive care for children and families throughout  
9 childhood that incorporates the concepts of developmental  
10 assets created by a national nonprofit organization; and

11 WHEREAS, such a model identifies a number of  
12 research-based, external experiences and internal qualities  
13 that support children's development, helping them create and  
14 maintain resilience to become caring, responsible and  
15 productive adults;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the dedicated members of the  
18 J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force and the university  
19 of New Mexico be recognized for their work on behalf of the  
20 youngest New Mexicans; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico  
22 be requested to reconvene the J. Paul Taylor early childhood  
23 task force in 2021 to continue its work in investigating the  
24 effects of parental mental illness, substance use disorders  
25 and family violence on young children and its work in making

1 recommendations to address these issues; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the J. Paul Taylor early  
3 childhood task force be requested to report its findings and  
4 recommendations to the legislative health and human services  
5 committee by November 1, 2021; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the president of the university of New Mexico,  
8 the 2020 chair of the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task  
9 force and the chair and vice chair of the legislative health  
10 and human services committee. \_\_\_\_\_

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