

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,  
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO  
MEET WITH TAOS PUEBLO OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF  
ENTERING INTO A JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE LICENSED  
FOSTER CARE AND TREATMENT FOSTER CARE HOMES ON TAOS PUEBLO.

WHEREAS, the development of "culturally sensitive"  
mental health services for "special needs" children and youth  
in New Mexico has been characterized by limited opportunity  
and fraught with uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, state funding sources have historically given  
mental health providers an "opportunity" to select from a  
limited array of choices, most of which do not take culture,  
race or ethnicity into account; and

WHEREAS, managed care organizations should accommodate  
ongoing training in cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity  
and cultural competence; and

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1           WHEREAS, in addition to a lack of cultural awareness,  
2 many state legislative mental health and social service  
3 mandates seemingly do not include a system of fiscal  
4 accountability for public sector, state-run behavioral health  
5 care agencies; and

6           WHEREAS, when different managed care providers carve out  
7 separate plans and benefits for different types of clients,  
8 such as foster care and treatment foster care, the  
9 administrative costs associated with carving out plans and  
10 requesting reimbursement from different managed care entities  
11 are often cost-prohibitive; and

12           WHEREAS, problems of cultural awareness, cultural  
13 sensitivity, cultural competence, fiscal accountability and  
14 excessive administrative costs prohibit communities from  
15 providing necessary mental health services, such as foster  
16 care and treatment foster care, to "special needs" children  
17 in New Mexico; and

18           WHEREAS, Taos pueblo is in desperate need of licensed  
19 foster care and licensed treatment foster care homes on the  
20 reservation; and

21           WHEREAS, treatment foster care and foster care program  
22 providers are currently committed to helping Taos pueblo  
23 social services explore this possibility;

24           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families  
department be requested to meet with Taos pueblo officials to  
discuss the possibility of entering into a joint powers

underscoring material = new  
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1 agreement so that the pueblo receives Title IV-E funds for  
2 foster care and treatment foster care programming; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families  
5 and to Taos pueblo officials.

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