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1 to the field; and

2 WHEREAS, continuity of caregivers is critical to ensuring
3 high quality educational experiences for young children; and

4 WHEREAS, research shows that high quality education for
5 young children results in improved educational outcomes,
6 reduced costs and reduced needs for special education and
7 delinquency programs later on; and

8 WHEREAS, models for providing health insurance and
9 retirement benefits exist in other states;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of child development of
12 the children, youth and families department lead a study of
13 the mechanisms for the provision of health insurance and
14 retirement benefits for early childhood education and family
15 support professionals; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to accomplish the study, the
17 children, youth and families department include representation
18 from early childhood educators, professionals, associations
19 and organizations representing the needs of young children and
20 the professionals who care for them; the department of health;
21 the children, youth and families department; and the state
22 department of public education; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include review of
24 successful models in other states and development of a plan to
25 make health insurance and retirement benefits available for

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1 these professionals; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and
3 families department and the office of child development report
4 progress and recommendations to the legislative education
5 study committee and the legislative health and human services
6 committee at their respective October 2002 meetings; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 sent to the children, youth and families department, the
9 department of health, the state department of public
10 education, the legislative education study committee, the
11 interim legislative health and human services committee
12 and other appropriate parties.

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