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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 12
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY
Pauline J. Ponce

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALIGNING EARLY
CHILD CARE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, research has shown that high-quality pre-kindergarten early education programs produce long-term benefits for children who enroll in them, including improved overall academic performance, increased motivation, increased self-confidence, better attendance in school and improved classroom behavior; and

WHEREAS, economic analysis of research has shown that every dollar spent on providing high-quality early care and education programs results in a seven-dollar (\$7.00) savings to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, thirty-six states currently have legislation mandating the coordination of child care systems with other

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1 early education systems and twenty-one states have laws that
2 require early childhood education programs to coordinate with
3 child care programs in order to be eligible for funding under a
4 statewide early childhood initiative; and

5 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, there is currently no entity
6 responsible for the coordination of early care and education
7 programs or for the collection of data about existing systems
8 of early care and education such as the number of children
9 being served, types of programs available, the amount of
10 federal and state funds being expended for these services and
11 the purpose or expected outcomes of programs; and

12 WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately two hundred
13 fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) of federal and state funds
14 are being expended annually for early care and education
15 programs in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, the interagency coordinating group was created in
17 law within the children, youth and families department in 1992
18 and is comprised of the secretary of finance and
19 administration, the secretary of health, the secretary of human
20 services, the secretary of labor, the superintendent of public
21 instruction, the chairman of the joint interim legislative
22 health and human services committee and a member of governor's
23 office; and

24 WHEREAS, the purpose of the interagency coordinating group
25 is to assist the secretary of children, youth and families and

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1 the children, youth and families advisory committee in planning
2 the coordination of services;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the interagency coordinating group be
5 requested to study the alignment of early care education
6 programs in New Mexico, establish a framework for a statewide
7 comprehensive and universal system of preschool programs and
8 fully delineate the procedures and methodology necessary to
9 implement such a framework; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency coordinating
11 group report its findings and recommendations to the
12 legislative education study committee by November 2003; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the interagency coordinating group and the
15 director of the legislative education study committee for
16 appropriate distribution.

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