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1 throughout the state, totaling approximately two hundred
2 thirty-two million dollars (\$232,000,000) of federal and state
3 funds; and

4 WHEREAS, research has shown that early childhood and
5 preschool programs vary in the effectiveness with which they
6 develop literacy and mathematics readiness, increasing
7 motivation and self-confidence and improving attendance and
8 classroom behavior in elementary schools; and

9 WHEREAS, there is currently no mechanism for evaluating
10 the effectiveness of early childhood and preschool programs in
11 New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, the most valid and cost-effective method for
13 evaluating the effectiveness of early childhood and preschool
14 programs is to follow the children over time, as they enter and
15 proceed through public school systems, and compare their
16 progress with that of similar children with different early
17 childhood backgrounds; and

18 WHEREAS, the center for education research at the
19 institute for social research at the university of New Mexico
20 has for several years been successfully conducting longitudinal
21 evaluation research that follows children from public preschool
22 programs into Albuquerque public schools and performs
23 appropriate statistical comparison analysis;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the center for education research be

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1 requested to begin designing and conducting research that
2 follows children in early childhood programs as these children
3 enter and proceed through schools included in the student-level
4 database maintained by the public education department; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order to carry out this
6 research program, the center for education research be given
7 access by the public education department to relevant datasets,
8 including datasets that link student identification numbers
9 with each student's first name, last name and date of birth;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the center for education
12 research report to the legislature on the effectiveness of the
13 different programs; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the center for education research, the public
16 education department and the legislative education study
17 committee.