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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 74
47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006
INTRODUCED BY
Sheryl Williams Stapleton

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING AN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE TO STUDY WAYS TO ADDRESS
THE POVERTY-RELATED PROBLEMS OF NEW MEXICO AFRICAN-AMERICANS.

WHEREAS, thirty-three percent of African-American children
in New Mexico live below the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the mortality rate for African-American infants
in New Mexico is more than twice as high as for other infants
in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, African-American mothers work longer hours for
less pay than all other mothers in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, African-American children are dramatically
overrepresented in the New Mexico juvenile justice and foster
care systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that an interagency committee, consisting

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1 of the secretary of children, youth and families, the director
2 of the office of African American affairs, the secretary of
3 health, the secretary of human services, the secretary of
4 public education and the secretary of aging and long-term
5 services, study the policies and procedures that are in place
6 to address poverty among the African-American residents of New
7 Mexico, the adequacy of these policies and procedures and the
8 adequacy of early childhood, health and educational services
9 for African-American children; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency committee work
11 with New Mexico community organizations having an interest in
12 the well-being of African-Americans, particularly African-
13 American children, in New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency committee
15 develop recommendations, with a commitment to funding, for
16 program and policy development and present these
17 recommendations, with a recommendation for needed
18 appropriations, to the legislative education study committee,
19 the legislative health and human services committee and the
20 welfare reform oversight committee prior to December 1, 2006;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families,
24 the director of the office of African American affairs, the
25 secretary of health, the secretary of human services, the

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1 secretary of public education and the secretary of aging and
2 long-term services.

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