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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 6**  
**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006**  
**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Cynthia Nava**

**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING AN OFFICE OF**  
**SCHOOL READINESS TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN FROM BIRTH**  
**THROUGH AGE FOUR.**

**WHEREAS, the 2005 legislature enacted the Pre-**  
**Kindergarten Act as a pilot program to provide state-supported**  
**pre-kindergarten for four-year-old children throughout New**  
**Mexico; and**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico pre-k, the program implemented**  
**pursuant to the Pre-Kindergarten Act, is only the most recent**  
**in a number of state-supported early care and education**  
**programs for preschool children, including family, infant,**  
**toddler; child care; child development; special education**  
**services for developmentally delayed three- and four-year-old**  
**children; even start; GRADS; and kindergarten plus; in**

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1 addition to federally supported programs such as head start  
2 and early head start; and

3 WHEREAS, the publicly funded programs currently offered  
4 for preschool children are under the auspices of the children,  
5 youth and families department, the department of health, the  
6 public education department or the federal head start program;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the legislature has maintained an interest in  
9 the effective alignment of programs for preschool and other  
10 young children since the late 1990s; and

11 WHEREAS, the 2005 legislature also enacted the Children's  
12 Cabinet Act to institutionalize the executive's children's  
13 cabinet to study and make recommendations for the design of a  
14 coordinated system to maximize outcomes among children and  
15 youth under age twenty-one; and

16 WHEREAS, the children's cabinet is charged under the  
17 Children's Cabinet Act to address five aspects of children and  
18 youth, one of which is preparedness for and success in school;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the needs of children from birth to age four  
21 require special attention in addition to that provided through  
22 the broad scope of duties assigned to the children's cabinet;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children's cabinet, the children,  
25 youth and families department, the department of health and

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1 the public education department, in collaboration with the  
2 child development board and other appropriate agencies, be  
3 requested to examine the feasibility of creating an office of  
4 school readiness that would coordinate the range of publicly  
5 funded programs and services for children from birth through  
6 age four currently offered by multiple agencies; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children's cabinet, the  
8 children, youth and families department, the department of  
9 health and the public education department report their  
10 findings and recommendations to the legislative education  
11 study committee by November 2006; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the chair of the children's cabinet, the  
14 secretary of children, youth and families, the secretary of  
15 health, the secretary of public education and the director of  
16 the legislative education study committee for appropriate  
17 distribution.