SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 37

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY MET AND UNMET NEEDS OF STUDENT PARENTS FOR CHILD CARE.

A JOINT MEMORIAL

WHEREAS, student parents attend schools throughout the state and have needs for adequate child care for their progeny so that they can continue their own education; and

WHEREAS, in the Albuquerque south valley, a group of student parents has identified the needs of student parents in middle school, high school, community college and university and has found their needs inadequately met; and

WHEREAS, staff at child care centers should be qualified, licensed and available, but this is not consistently the case; and

WHEREAS, the ratio of children to adults at child care centers is often too high; and .167211.1

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WHEREAS, child care centers used by student parents are often available on an inadequate schedule, too expensive or inconveniently located; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of child care centers to report on their activities and to be held accountable is spread too broadly throughout agencies and committees, and the reports of child care centers should be transparent and widely available; and

WHEREAS, student parents rely on decent child care in order to improve the likelihood that they and their children will lead productive lives and achieve economic and educational success;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families department study the met and unmet needs for child care for student parents and report its findings to the welfare reform oversight committee or another appropriate interim legislative committee during the 2007 interim; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary-designee of the children, youth and families department, the superintendent of Albuquerque public schools, the chair of the interim welfare reform oversight committee and the governor.

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