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HOUSE MEMORIAL 7

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

INTRODUCED BY

Bill B. O'Neill

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST A COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO AMELIORATING CHILD HOMELESSNESS TO STUDY CHILD HOMELESSNESS IN NEW MEXICO AND PRESENT LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS.

WHEREAS, more than eight thousand nine hundred New Mexico children experience homelessness each year; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico Title 1 homeless programs served forty percent more homeless children in the 2007-2008 academic school year than they did in the 2006-2007 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque public school district alone anticipates serving over five thousand homeless students in the 2009-2010 academic school year; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranked forty-seventh among the fifty states on the national center on family homelessness's state

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1 report card; and

2 WHEREAS, the national center on family homelessness ranked  
3 New Mexico forty-fourth among the fifty states on mitigating a  
4 child's risk of becoming homeless; and

5 WHEREAS, children experiencing homelessness are four times  
6 more likely to have developmental delays, relative to the  
7 general population; and

8 WHEREAS, seventy-five percent of homeless children under  
9 the age of five years have at least one major developmental  
10 delay; and

11 WHEREAS, children who are experiencing homelessness, or  
12 who are living with families at high risk of homelessness, are  
13 much more likely to experience physical health and behavioral  
14 health problems, such as asthma and depression; and

15 WHEREAS, children experiencing homelessness are much more  
16 likely to have problems in school; and

17 WHEREAS, many parents do not earn enough money to pay for  
18 housing and other basic necessities; and

19 WHEREAS, a single parent earning minimum wage cannot  
20 afford rent on a two-bedroom apartment priced at the fair  
21 market value in New Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico's working families need affordable  
23 child care, early childhood development programs, health care,  
24 education and housing, not only to avoid homelessness but also  
25 to thrive; and

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1           WHEREAS, fully funding programs and services such as high-  
2           quality child care, early childhood development, education,  
3           affordable housing, medicaid and behavioral health services  
4           will prevent children from becoming homeless; and

5           WHEREAS, the New Mexico campaign to end child homelessness  
6           is a collaboration to end child homelessness in New Mexico by  
7           increasing public awareness about the scope and impact of child  
8           homelessness, informing state policies to better address the  
9           needs of homeless children and improving services to homeless  
10          children; and

11          WHEREAS, that campaign is led by cuidando los niños,  
12          Albuquerque health care for the homeless, the Albuquerque Title  
13          1 homeless project, the New Mexico coalition to end  
14          homelessness, New Mexico voices for children and the national  
15          center on family homelessness;

16          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
17          REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children,  
18          youth and families department be requested to assist the New  
19          Mexico coalition to end homelessness, in collaboration with  
20          members of the New Mexico campaign to end child homelessness,  
21          to conduct a study on child homelessness in New Mexico and  
22          present a report to the interim legislative health and human  
23          services committee, along with legislative recommendations to  
24          alleviate child homelessness, by November 2010; and

25          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families,  
2 the executive director of the New Mexico coalition to end  
3 homelessness and the governor.

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