

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 22

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Bill B. O'Neill and John C. Ryan

5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO  
12 ESTABLISH AN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD HOMELESSNESS THAT  
13 INCLUDES THE APPLICABLE DEPARTMENTS HAVING A BEARING ON CHILD  
14 HOMELESSNESS, ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO AMELIORATING CHILD  
15 HOMELESSNESS, THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE.  
16

17 WHEREAS, during the 2008-2009 school year, an estimated  
18 fourteen thousand five hundred children were homeless in New  
19 Mexico, and that number is expected to increase during the  
20 2010-2011 school year; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranked forty-seventh among the fifty  
22 states on the national center on family homelessness' state  
23 report card; and

24 WHEREAS, children who are experiencing homelessness or  
25 living with families at high risk of homelessness are much more

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 likely to experience physical and behavioral health problems;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, many homeless children end up in foster care, and  
4 at least thirty percent of children in foster care would be  
5 able to return home if their parents had access to housing; and

6 WHEREAS, up to thirty-six percent of young people who  
7 transition out of the foster care system will experience  
8 homelessness at some point in their lives; and

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

11 WHEREAS, homeless children are sixteen percent less  
12 proficient at reading and math than their peers, and less than  
13 twenty-five percent of homeless children graduate from high  
14 school; and

15 WHEREAS, ending child homelessness in New Mexico is  
16 urgently necessary, and it is possible; and

17 WHEREAS, up-front cost-effective ways to prevent child  
18 homelessness and support children and families who are already  
19 homeless will improve outcomes and save money over time; and

20 WHEREAS, an ongoing comprehensive and coordinated  
21 collaboration among all stakeholders is required to ensure  
22 effective and strategic distribution of resources to end child  
23 homelessness; and

24 WHEREAS, in the 2010 legislative session, the New Mexico  
25 house of representatives requested the children, youth and

.183829.3

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 families department to assist the New Mexico campaign to end  
2 child homelessness to develop recommendations to end child  
3 homelessness in New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, increased coordination and collaboration among  
5 state agencies, service providers and community leaders working  
6 to prevent and end child homelessness were recommended; and

7 WHEREAS, a standard protocol and shared system for state  
8 agencies to collect, report and share housing status  
9 information on children and adults served was recommended; and

10 WHEREAS, an interagency council on child homelessness can  
11 write and implement a plan to end child homelessness;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to issue an  
14 executive order establishing the interagency council on child  
15 homelessness to develop and implement a ten-year plan to end  
16 child homelessness; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor and the New  
18 Mexico legislative council appoint representatives to the  
19 interagency council on child homelessness and that the  
20 children, youth and families department, human services  
21 department, workforce solutions department, New Mexico mortgage  
22 finance authority, corrections department, department of  
23 health, public education department and veterans' services  
24 department cooperate and participate in establishing the  
25 interagency council on child homelessness with at least one

.183829.3

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 full-time employee to support the work of the interagency  
2 council; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency council on  
4 child homelessness include people who have experienced  
5 homelessness and representatives of social service, community  
6 and advocacy organizations dedicated to ameliorating child  
7 homelessness in urban and rural areas of New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency council on  
9 child homelessness report annually to the governor and interim  
10 legislative health and human services committee; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the governor; the New Mexico legislative  
13 council; the secretaries of human services, children, youth and  
14 families, workforce solutions, corrections, health, public  
15 education and veterans' services; the executive director of the  
16 New Mexico mortgage finance authority; and the coordinator for  
17 the New Mexico campaign to end child homelessness.