

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES
3 CENTER TO RECONVENE THE J. PAUL TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK
4 FORCE TO CONTINUE ITS WORK IN IMPROVING COLLABORATION AMONG
5 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS AND DEVELOPING AN
6 INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN;
7 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT
8 APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEES TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
9 THE J. PAUL TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE'S PRELIMINARY
10 RECOMMENDATIONS.

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12 WHEREAS, in the 2013 first session of the fifty-first
13 legislature, the legislature passed House Memorial 75, which
14 requested the university of New Mexico health sciences center
15 to appoint the "J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force" in
16 honor of former legislator and tireless children's advocate,
17 J. Paul Taylor; and

18 WHEREAS, during the 2013 interim, the university of New
19 Mexico convened the task force, which was chaired by the
20 chair of the children's trust fund board of trustees and
21 included a wide range of stakeholders for and experts in
22 infant and early childhood mental health services; and

23 WHEREAS, the task force was requested to develop and
24 recommend means and methods to:

25 A. improve collaboration among early childhood

1 development stakeholders;

2 B. develop a system to identify invisible,
3 unserved and underserved at-risk infants and young children;

4 C. develop an early childhood mental health plan
5 for infants and children through age eight, ranging from
6 prevention through early intervention and treatment, and
7 review state and local funding streams throughout the early
8 childhood system;

9 D. identify how the early childhood system can be
10 used for child abuse prevention; and

11 E. promote evidence-based, community early
12 childhood programs in New Mexico by establishing a link to
13 state data for early childhood research; and

14 WHEREAS, during the first year of service, the task
15 force made significant strides in building a coherent
16 outcomes-based infant and early childhood mental health and
17 child abuse prevention action plan; and

18 WHEREAS, the task force reviewed health screening models
19 that prioritize reaching at early ages at-risk children and
20 families, i.e., those individuals living in the most
21 vulnerable of circumstances; and

22 WHEREAS, the task force has identified significant gaps
23 in funding and service provision that require coordinated
24 attention to address children's social and emotional
25 development across a broad set of policies affecting health,

1 mental health, early childhood and social services and family
2 support; and

3 WHEREAS, the task force has identified needed linkages
4 among health and behavioral health practitioners and
5 practitioners in other child-serving settings to improve the
6 ability to recognize and respond to risks or early signs of
7 compromised social and emotional development and health
8 disorders; and

9 WHEREAS, the task force has created a broad-based
10 coalition of stakeholders that, with expanded membership, can
11 develop a road map for an infant and early childhood mental
12 health action plan; and

13 WHEREAS, an infant and early childhood mental health
14 action plan could result in a comprehensive, strength-based,
15 child- and family-focused early childhood mental health and
16 child abuse prevention system to achieve better outcomes for
17 at-risk children and families; and

18 WHEREAS, members of the task force presented preliminary
19 findings and recommendations to the interim legislative
20 health and human services committee in November 2013; and

21 WHEREAS, members of the task force have informed the
22 committee that the first year action plan developed by the
23 task force does not contain all of the details for achieving
24 the goals, but it provides a "best practice strategy" for
25 building a better system and a better future for New Mexico's

1 at-risk children and families; and

2 WHEREAS, among the preliminary recommendations of the
3 task force was the recommendation that the task force's work
4 be continued for another year in order to allow it to review
5 funding streams for an infant and early childhood mental
6 health action plan as well as to recommend a state policy for
7 early childhood mental health and child abuse prevention;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the J. Paul Taylor early childhood
10 task force be requested to continue for another year its work
11 in improving collaboration among stakeholders to develop a
12 road map to execute an infant and early childhood mental
13 health action plan; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the J. Paul Taylor early
15 childhood task force be requested to develop in its infant
16 and early childhood mental health action plan a
17 comprehensive, strength-based child- and family-focused early
18 childhood mental health and child abuse prevention system to
19 achieve better outcomes for at-risk children and families;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the J. Paul Taylor early
22 childhood task force be requested to develop recommendations
23 regarding the policy and funding details required to
24 successfully implement an infant and early childhood mental
25 health action plan; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the J. Paul Taylor early
2 childhood task force be requested to expand its membership to
3 include legislative finance committee staff and additional
4 stakeholders, including managed health care organizations,
5 representatives from the medical assistance division of the
6 human services department and the New Mexico association of
7 health councils; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
9 council be requested to charge the co-chairs of the
10 legislative finance committee and the chair and vice chair of
11 the legislative health and human services committee with a
12 review of the feasibility of the J. Paul Taylor early
13 childhood task force's preliminary recommendations with
14 respect to the budgeting, oversight, data collection and
15 reporting requirements that those recommendations may entail;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the J. Paul Taylor early
18 childhood task force be requested to make recommendations to
19 the interim legislative health and human services committee
20 and the legislative finance committee by October 1, 2014; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the interim
23 legislative health and human services committee, the chair of
24 the legislative finance committee, the secretary of children,
25 youth and families and the chancellor of health sciences

1 of the university of New Mexico.

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