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SENATE MEMORIAL 50

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER
APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF NEW MEXICO
FAMILIES THAT ENGAGE IN TWO OR MORE TYPES OF SOCIAL SERVICES
AND THE RELATED IMPACTS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico focuses a significant amount of its
state and federal funds each year addressing and responding to
poverty, hunger, mental health, child welfare, criminal justice
and other related social issues; and

WHEREAS, these issues have long-term fiscal and
humanitarian impacts on New Mexico and its residents; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is in a budget shortfall; and

WHEREAS, despite large state, local, federal and
philanthropic financial investments, New Mexico consistently
ranks near the bottom of state rankings in the areas of child

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1 maltreatment, incarceration, poverty and other related measures
2 of individual, child and family well-being; and

3 WHEREAS, research suggests that among consumers of social
4 services, there is a distinct and identifiable population of
5 individuals and families that use two or more types of social
6 services, such as the supplemental nutrition assistance program
7 and child support programs; and

8 WHEREAS, those individuals and families use a significant
9 portion of social-services funding; and

10 WHEREAS, there has never been any study that links data
11 across state agencies to determine the existence of these
12 individuals and their families in New Mexico, the costs of
13 serving them or the type, quality and efficacy of the social
14 services they receive; and

15 WHEREAS, understanding the costs and the type, quality and
16 efficacy of the social services they receive could have a
17 significant budgetary impact on the state; and

18 WHEREAS, state agencies produce and collect data that
19 could shed light on budgetary impacts; and

20 WHEREAS, individual-level data are separated by agencies
21 and not linked to illustrate the broader needs and service gaps
22 of individuals and families that use two or more types of
23 social services, or the efficacy of interventions on them; and

24 WHEREAS, a larger data governance strategy with regard to
25 individuals or families that use two or more types of social

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1 services may ultimately be an effective step in identifying and
2 better serving those individuals or families;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
4 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative finance committee, and any
5 other appropriate interim legislative committees, be requested
6 to conduct a study of families in New Mexico that use at least
7 two types of social services, such as income support programs,
8 child welfare programs, mental health services or criminal
9 justice services; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include
11 identification of their numbers; their geographic distribution;
12 the public costs of serving them; the outcomes they experience;
13 and ways in which New Mexico could improve services to them,
14 including the coordination of services across public agencies;
15 and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance
17 committee and any other appropriate interim legislative
18 committees be requested to collaborate with New Mexico
19 appleased to conduct the study; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department;
21 the children, youth and families department; the corrections
22 department; the public education department; the department of
23 health; the New Mexico mortgage finance authority; and other
24 departments and agencies be requested to share data with the
25 legislative finance committee to facilitate the study; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative finance
2 committee and any other appropriate interim legislative
3 committees be requested to complete the study by October 1,
4 2018; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
7 council; the chair of the legislative finance committee; the
8 secretary of human services; the secretary of children, youth
9 and families; the secretary of corrections; the secretary of
10 public education; the secretary of health; the chair of the New
11 Mexico mortgage finance authority; and the executive director
12 of New Mexico appleseed.