

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 111

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT CONVENE A TASK  
12 FORCE THAT INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES  
13 DEPARTMENT, WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND  
14 FAMILIES DEPARTMENT, ADVOCATES AND COMMUNITY-BASED  
15 ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING NEW MEXICO FAMILIES WHO PARTICIPATE  
16 IN THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM.

17  
18 WHEREAS, the temporary assistance for needy families  
19 program is an important source of cash assistance for New  
20 Mexico families with some of the lowest incomes in the state;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, one-fifth of the children whose families receive  
23 temporary assistance for needy families services are under one  
24 year of age, and more than one-half of the children whose  
25 families receive temporary assistance for needy families

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1 services are under the age of five; and

2 WHEREAS, fewer than five percent of families who receive  
3 temporary assistance for needy families services receive  
4 assistance with child care costs, despite the fact that receipt  
5 of temporary assistance for needy families deems recipients as  
6 top-priority applicants for child care assistance; and

7 WHEREAS, twenty-nine percent of families who receive  
8 temporary assistance for needy families services have a head of  
9 household who has not completed high school or received an  
10 equivalent degree; and

11 WHEREAS, the majority of projected job openings in New  
12 Mexico will require some college education, yet only six  
13 percent of New Mexicans who participate in the temporary  
14 assistance for needy families program have more than a high  
15 school education; and

16 WHEREAS, research shows that one of the main reasons  
17 families fall into or remain in poverty is the lack of  
18 education credentials and job skills, which present barriers to  
19 getting jobs that pay family-sustaining wages and enable  
20 families to transition out of the program; and

21 WHEREAS, the workforce solutions department administers  
22 programming established pursuant to the federal Workforce  
23 Innovation and Opportunity Act in New Mexico that is designed  
24 to improve the state's workforce systems and help New Mexicans  
25 with significant barriers to employment, like many adults who

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1 participate in the temporary assistance for needy families  
2 program, to secure family-sustaining jobs and careers; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico has started to develop a statewide  
4 career pathways framework in the health field and has the  
5 opportunity to sustain and expand this work by leveraging the  
6 temporary assistance for needy families program and federal  
7 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding sources; and

8 WHEREAS, the human services department plans to transfer  
9 administration of work-related requirements in the temporary  
10 assistance for needy families program to the workforce  
11 solutions department;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
13 OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be requested  
14 to partner with the workforce solutions department, the  
15 children, youth and families department, advocates and  
16 community-based organizations representing New Mexico families  
17 who participate in the temporary assistance for needy families  
18 program to form a task force to lead the effort of:

19 A. determining outcome measures and reporting  
20 requirements that would better inform policymakers on the  
21 effectiveness of the temporary assistance for needy families  
22 program and on ways to better align the program with the  
23 federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;

24 B. identifying evidence-based employment,  
25 education, job training and career pathways opportunities that

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1 will meet the employment needs of temporary assistance for  
2 needy families program-eligible families and the workforce  
3 needs of employers in the state;

4 C. identifying state agency and legislative actions  
5 that will increase access to support services that support  
6 employment and self-sufficiency for program participants,  
7 including child care assistance, transportation assistance and  
8 housing assistance; and

9 D. planning for the successful transfer of the  
10 administration of the work-related components of the temporary  
11 assistance for needy families program from the human services  
12 department to the workforce solutions department; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department  
14 be requested to track progress of the task force and report to  
15 the legislative health and human services committee and the  
16 legislative finance committee concerning its progress and  
17 recommendations in the fall of 2017 and 2018; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of human services,  
20 the secretary of workforce solutions and the secretary of  
21 children, youth and families.