

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES TO
3 CONVENE A CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND
4 CHANGES FOR IMPROVING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN
5 IN THE CARE OF THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM BY
6 IMPROVING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND
7 FAMILIES DEPARTMENT AND RESOURCE FAMILIES, FOR BETTER
8 SUPPORTING RESOURCE FAMILIES AND FOR COLLABORATIVELY WORKING
9 TOWARD BETTER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF RESOURCE FAMILIES.

10
11 WHEREAS, the child protective services division of the
12 children, youth and families department serves the state's
13 most vulnerable populations, who are children in need of the
14 state's intervention and protection; and

15 WHEREAS, resource families, which include foster
16 families and families led by guardians and kinship
17 caregivers, are families led by individuals who volunteer
18 their time, energy and resources to provide a safe home for
19 children in need of intervention and protection; and

20 WHEREAS, stakeholders, including resource families, law
21 enforcement, educational professionals and behavioral health
22 and medical professionals, have identified numerous critical
23 issues in the child protective services system that they want
24 to be addressed and that need to be rectified in order to
25 better promote the safety and security of children being

1 cared for by resource parents; and

2 WHEREAS, these stakeholders also seek to improve their
3 relationship with the protective services division of the
4 children, youth and families department; and

5 WHEREAS, many resource parents report feeling
6 disenfranchised by current rules and procedures; and

7 WHEREAS, many populations of youth within the foster
8 care system have specific needs that need to be addressed;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the purpose of child protective services is to
11 prevent reoccurring child abuse and traumatization of
12 children in New Mexico;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of children, youth and
15 families be requested to convene a child protective services
16 task force to make recommendations to the children, youth and
17 families department for improving the safety and well-being
18 of children in the care of the child protective services
19 system by improving the relationship between the children,
20 youth and families department and resource families, for
21 better supporting resource families and for collaboratively
22 working toward better recruitment and retention of resource
23 families; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
25 to:

1 A. recommend the implementation in all protective
2 services division offices and programs throughout the state
3 of uniform and consistent policies and procedures, and a plan
4 to implement those policies and procedures to ensure that
5 resource families are appropriately supported, recruited and
6 retained;

7 B. recommend measures to ensure that all children,
8 youth and families department rules are made easily available
9 to every resource family, as well as all interested
10 stakeholders and members of the general public;

11 C. recommend measures to ensure that current rules
12 and procedures support New Mexicans who devote themselves to
13 being resource families and streamline the foster care system
14 to reduce bureaucratic burdens on resource families;

15 D. review training, support and ongoing
16 opportunities to retain resource families, to study resource
17 family retention and to determine desired and needed training
18 topics and best sources of support;

19 E. analyze family reintegration policies,
20 procedures and practices and recommend safeguards to create
21 safe and lasting reintegration of families;

22 F. study the benefits of placement stability to
23 avoid multiple, disruptive placements; and

24 G. identify better ways to recruit, support and
25 retain resources that resource families and children and

1 family service providers need to support the state's most
2 vulnerable population; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of children,
4 youth and families be requested to include the following
5 participants in the task force:

- 6 A. the director of the children's cabinet;
- 7 B. the secretary of aging and long-term services;
- 8 C. two foster parents;
- 9 D. a guardian of a child;
- 10 E. two kinship caregivers;
- 11 F. a licensed medical physical health expert;
- 12 G. a licensed behavioral health expert;
- 13 H. an expert representative of law enforcement;
- 14 I. a classified children, youth and families
15 department employee;
- 16 J. a family reintegration expert; and
- 17 K. a children's court improvement commission
18 representative; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of children,
20 youth and families be requested to invite to participate in
21 discussions of the child protective services task force as
22 appropriate:

- 23 A. a child care services or other children's
24 service provider;
- 25 B. a court-appointed special advocate;

- 1 C. an expert in education;
- 2 D. an expert from a nonprofit children's advocacy
3 organization;
- 4 E. a representative of a sexual minority
5 community;
- 6 F. a representative of a gender minority
7 community;
- 8 G. an expert on the federal Indian Child Welfare
9 Act of 1978; and
- 10 H. other stakeholders whose expertise the
11 secretary of children, youth and families deems necessary to
12 the work of the child protective services task force; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that findings and recommendations
14 of the task force be presented to the legislative health and
15 human services committee by October 1, 2020; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the legislative
18 health and human services committee, the secretary of
19 children, youth and families, the co-chairs of the children's
20 court improvement commission, the director of the child
21 protective services division of the children, youth and
22 families department and the director of the children's
23 cabinet. _____