

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 126

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE EXTENDED TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND
12 POLICY CHANGES TO EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND
13 ASSISTANCE FOR GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.

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15 WHEREAS, in 2014 the children, youth and families
16 department published a study on the availability of resources
17 to grandparents raising grandchildren, which study revealed a
18 dearth of public services and resources available to
19 grandparents raising grandchildren and, in particular, to
20 grandparents who lack legal custody of their grandchildren; and

21 WHEREAS, a task force was convened in 2015 to study and
22 recommend concrete policy changes that could be implemented to
23 expand the availability of resources and assistance to
24 grandparents raising grandchildren, including financial
25 resources; legal services; and assistance with food, housing,

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1 medical care, child care, transportation and education; and

2 WHEREAS, the task force has delivered its recommendations
3 each year through 2018 to the legislative health and human
4 services committee and the legislative finance committee; and

5 WHEREAS, the recommendations included extending the task
6 force for an additional year to continue its studies and refine
7 its recommendations; and

8 WHEREAS, important work still remains for the task force;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the task force, including members who
11 represent New Mexico voices for children, Pegasus legal
12 services for children, the New Mexico coalition of educational
13 leaders, court appointed special advocates for children, the
14 New Mexico parent-teacher association, parents reaching out,
15 the American association of retired persons and Las Cumbres
16 community services, inc.; one representative each from the
17 human services department, the children, youth and families
18 department, the children's court, the public education
19 department, the aging and long-term services department and the
20 office of the attorney general; and two members from the
21 general public, be extended; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study and
23 recommend concrete policy changes that could be implemented in
24 order to expand the availability of resources and assistance to
25 grandparents raising grandchildren, including financial

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1 resources and, particularly, the provision of maintenance
2 payments for the care and support of children placed in the
3 care of a kinship caregiver; provisions of the federal Family
4 First Prevention Services Act to assist grandparents raising
5 grandchildren; legal services; food and housing assistance; and
6 programs relating to medical care, child care, transportation
7 and education; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department,
9 the children, youth and families department and the aging and
10 long-term services department be requested to coordinate and
11 provide staff support to the task force; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
13 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and
14 human services committee and the legislative finance committee
15 no later than November 2019; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the secretary
18 of children, youth and families and the secretary of aging and
19 long-term services.