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HOUSE MEMORIAL 27

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

INTRODUCED BY

Rebecca Dow

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO CONVENE A  
PARITY PAY TASK FORCE TO STUDY REIMBURSEMENTS TO NEW MEXICO  
PERSONAL CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2021, New Mexico's minimum wage  
increased to ten dollars fifty cents (\$10.50) per hour; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2022, New Mexico's minimum wage  
will increase to eleven dollars fifty cents (\$11.50) per hour;  
and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2023, New Mexico's minimum wage  
will increase to twelve dollars (\$12.00) per hour; and

WHEREAS, in order for personal care service providers to  
keep pace with regulations and rising minimum wages for  
providing critical services, proportional increases to  
reimbursement rates are needed; and

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1           WHEREAS, New Mexico child care providers that accept the  
2 rate the state pays for child care are not allowed to charge  
3 families receiving child care assistance more than the state  
4 rate for the hours listed on the placement agreement; and

5           WHEREAS, in order for child care providers that provide  
6 substantial services to families receiving child care  
7 assistance to keep pace with regulations and rising minimum  
8 wages for these critical services, proportional increases to  
9 reimbursement rates are needed; and

10           WHEREAS, state contractors provide valuable services,  
11 including health care services, child care services, sexual  
12 abuse and sexual violence prevention services, senior services,  
13 behavioral health services and other important services, to New  
14 Mexico's most vulnerable populations; and

15           WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the state and its  
16 residents that state contractors be provided payment increases  
17 that recognize the increase in costs due to the minimum wage,  
18 staffing costs, administrative costs, unemployment insurance  
19 costs, workers' compensation costs and additional ancillary  
20 costs;

21           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the chair of  
23 the legislative finance committee be requested to convene a  
24 parity pay task force by May 1, 2021, to:

25           A. identify and quantify the impact of the

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1 scheduled minimum wage increases on state contractors and  
2 subcontractors that primarily derive their revenue from the  
3 state, including personal care service providers and child care  
4 providers;

5 B. review the adequacy of the current rates for  
6 state contractors and subcontractors that primarily derive  
7 their revenue from the state, including personal care service  
8 providers and child care providers; and

9 C. develop a plan and calculate new rates that  
10 would be needed to keep pace with the scheduled minimum wage  
11 increases affecting state contractors and subcontractors that  
12 primarily derive their revenue from the state, including  
13 personal care service providers and child care providers; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the parity pay task force  
15 consist of:

16 A. the secretary of human services or the  
17 secretary's designee;

18 B. the secretary of early childhood education and  
19 care or the secretary's designee;

20 C. the secretary of children, youth and families or  
21 the secretary's designee;

22 D. the executive director of the New Mexico  
23 association for home and hospice care or the executive  
24 director's designee;

25 E. the executive director of the New Mexico child

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1 care and education association or the executive director's  
2 designee;

3 F. one member appointed by the speaker of the house  
4 of representatives;

5 G. one member appointed by the president pro  
6 tempore of the senate;

7 H. one member appointed by the minority floor  
8 leader of the house of representatives;

9 I. one member appointed by the minority floor  
10 leader of the senate; and

11 J. other stakeholders that the legislative finance  
12 committee believes could provide value to the task force; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the parity pay task force be  
14 requested to present a report of its findings and  
15 recommendations to the legislative finance committee and the  
16 legislative health and human services committee by November 1,  
17 2021; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the governor, the speaker of the house of  
20 representatives, the president pro tempore of the senate, the  
21 secretary of human services, the secretary of early childhood  
22 education and care, the secretary of children, youth and  
23 families, the executive director of the New Mexico association  
24 for home and hospice care and the executive director of the New  
25 Mexico child care and education association.

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