HOUSE MEMORIAL 22

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Patricia Roybal Caballero

A MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW MEXICO BASIC INCOME FOR LOW-INCOME NEW MEXICANS AND TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, according to the United States census bureau, as of 2020, New Mexico has the second highest rate of poverty in the nation, with eighteen and two-tenths percent of New Mexicans living below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States census bureau, as of 2020, New Mexico has the second highest rate of childhood poverty in the nation, with twenty-four and seven-tenths percent of New Mexican children living below the poverty level; and

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WHEREAS, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics, as of September 2021, New Mexico has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, at seven and two-tenths percent; and

WHEREAS, according to the workforce solutions department, as of June 2021, New Mexico has a low labor force participation rate of fifty-seven and two-tenths percent, and that rate continues to decline; and

WHEREAS, as of 2017, twenty-nine and nine-tenths percent of jobs in New Mexico have a median annual pay below one hundred percent of the poverty level for a family of four and are considered low-wage jobs; and

WHEREAS, as of May 2021, forty-four percent of New Mexico residents were enrolled in medicaid; and

WHEREAS, "universal basic income" is defined as a government-guaranteed payment that each citizen receives; and

WHEREAS, universal basic income is intended to provide money to citizens so that they can pay for necessities, whether or not they are employed; and

WHEREAS, universal basic income is not intended to replace jobs; and

WHEREAS, the national bureau of economic research concluded that universal and basic cash transfers do not significantly decrease aggregate employment; and

WHEREAS, universal basic income studies have concluded

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that universal basic income boosts recipients' mental and financial well-being, improves employment rates and enables recipients to find full-time employment and pursue new opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation is piloting a universal basic income program using federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding; and

WHEREAS, numerous cities and countries around the globe have instituted or studied some form of universal basic income; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Santa Fe and Las Cruces are considering implementing basic income programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of human services and the secretary of workforce solutions be requested to convene a task force to study the impact that implementing a New Mexico basic income program for low-income New Mexicans would have on low-income New Mexicans and to make recommendations for implementing such a program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of representatives of community organizations working on behalf of low-income communities and those agencies and organizations already working with those communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a representative from the office of the governor who is identified as working on issues
affecting low-income New Mexicans be invited to participate in
the task force by those agencies convening the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
findings and recommendations and provide copies of its written
report to the legislative finance committee and the chair and
members of the legislative health and human services committee
and any other appropriate legislative interim committees by
November 1, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the secretary of human services, the secretary
of workforce solutions, the director of the legislative finance
committee and the chair of the legislative health and human
services committee.

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