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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

William P. Soules

A JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO
BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 25 TO ENSHRINE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS INTO
THE BILL OF RIGHTS; REQUIRING THE LEGISLATURE TO IMPLEMENT THE
CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 2 of the
constitution of New Mexico by adding a new Section 25 to read:

"A. Children in New Mexico have the following
rights:

(1) the right to medical and dental health
care that is timely and accessible;

(2) the right to behavioral health care that
is solution-focused and culturally sensitive, available to all
children's families and household members;

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1 (3) the right to nutritious food without
2 having to endure hunger, food insecurity or stigma;

3 (4) the right to stable, healthy and safe
4 housing with electricity, plumbing, heat and internet access;

5 (5) the right to transportation in order to
6 reach educational, recreational and vital services;

7 (6) the right to live in a community that
8 provides home visitation programs starting at birth to ensure
9 safe households, parental support and education; and navigation
10 to local vital services;

11 (7) the right to early childhood learning
12 programs that prepare children for school;

13 (8) the right to fully resourced community
14 schools, with staffing to ensure an enriching academic and
15 cultural experience, as well as a school-based health center to
16 provide medical, dental and mental health care to students and
17 family members;

18 (9) the right to youth mentorship programs in
19 many forms in order to support recreational activities and
20 strengthen physical health, academic skills and interpersonal
21 communication skills; and

22 (10) the right to acquire all the skills
23 needed to maintain quality employment, including education
24 aligned with job markets and job readiness and placement
25 programs.

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B. The legislature shall enact laws to implement the provisions of this section by the end of the fifty-seventh legislature."

SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at the next general election or at any special election prior to that date that may be called for that purpose.

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