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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 32**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Mimi Stewart**

**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO  
CREATE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO LICENSE PROVIDERS OF  
CHILD-CARE SERVICES THAT RECEIVE STATE REIMBURSEMENT FOR SUCH  
SERVICES.**

**WHEREAS, every child in New Mexico deserves the  
opportunity to experience healthy, normal development; and**

**WHEREAS, children should be able to rely on the provision  
of at least minimum standards of health, safety and nurturing  
through any child care subsidized by the state; and**

**WHEREAS, at least sixty percent of state-subsidized child  
care is provided through unlicensed child-care facilities where  
the quality and standards of care are unknown; and**

**WHEREAS, by subsidizing child care at these facilities,**

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1 the state of New Mexico is paying for care that may be of a low  
2 quality; and

3 WHEREAS, the rate currently paid to child-care facilities  
4 by the state is below market value; and

5 WHEREAS, raising the reimbursement rate for subsidized  
6 child care at licensed facilities, and purchasing child-care  
7 services only from licensed facilities would provide an  
8 incentive for unlicensed facilities to become licensed, thereby  
9 improving the quality of care for all children, not just those  
10 in state-subsidized facilities;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families  
13 department be requested to create a task force to develop a  
14 plan to license all providers of child-care services that  
15 receive state reimbursement for such services; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be comprised of  
17 experts in child care, parents, representatives from children's  
18 advocacy groups, trade associations representing children's  
19 health and education and others, as deemed appropriate, to  
20 assist in the development of the plan, to project costs and to  
21 establish a timeline for implementation; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of children,  
23 youth and families and the task force present this plan,  
24 including recommendations for legislation, to the interim  
25 legislative health and human services committee and the

. 134518. 1

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1 legislative finance committee at their October 2001 meeting;  
2 and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families  
5 and the respective legislative committees.

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