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1 A. teen mothers who are more likely to have serious
2 complications during pregnancy and delivery;

3 B. teen fathers and mothers who are less likely to
4 earn a high school diploma; and

5 C. teen fatherhood as a predictor of juvenile
6 delinquency; and

7 WHEREAS, the children of teen parents are more likely to:

8 A. live in poverty;

9 B. have health problems at birth;

10 C. be physically abused, abandoned or neglected;

11 D. do poorly in school;

12 E. be incarcerated; or

13 F. become teen mothers; and

14 WHEREAS, teen parents are at a higher risk to be victims
15 of crime and exploitation, including domestic violence; and

16 WHEREAS, education, housing and support are critical for
17 teen parents; and

18 WHEREAS, teen parents have a great potential to be closely
19 bonded to their children and provide for positive outcomes for
20 their children if they are supported in their parenting role;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, teen pregnancy costs New Mexico about two hundred
23 sixteen million dollars (\$216, 000, 000) per year;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families

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1 department convene a study group that includes appropriate
2 staff from the department of health, the human services
3 department, the labor department, the public education
4 department, the United States housing and urban development
5 department, as permitted, and community members knowledgeable
6 about services to parenting teens; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group survey the
8 state for programs that work for teen parents, analyze the
9 kinds of services and support programs needed by teen parents
10 and describe the service gaps that exist in New Mexico; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group develop a
12 comprehensive strategic plan to address the service gaps and
13 support needs and recommend a state agency to take
14 responsibility for implementing the plan to address the needs
15 of parenting teens and their children; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the children, youth and families department, the
18 department of health, the human services department, the labor
19 department and the public education department; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the findings of
21 the study group be reported to the interim legislative health
22 and human services committee by October 31, 2004 and that two
23 copies of the report be provided to the legislative council
24 service library.