

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 1

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING SEPTEMBER 8, 2011 "EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION DAY" AT THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SEEK AN INCREASE IN FEDERAL FUNDING AND REQUESTING POLICYMAKERS TO SEEK FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO ENSURE THAT ALL NEW MEXICO CHILDREN GET ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES.

WHEREAS, according to the national scientific council on the developing child, babies' brain development is rapid and the architecture that lays the foundation for future success is shaped before children enter kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, many new parents need skills and support to learn how to foster brain development and provide high-quality interactions as children's first teachers; and

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, according to the United States department of
2 education, New Mexico ranks forty-ninth in the United States
3 for the percentage of fourth graders who read proficiently; and

4 WHEREAS, the Annie E. Casey foundation reports that New
5 Mexico ranks forty-seventh in the United States for the
6 percentage of teens who do not finish high school; and

7 WHEREAS, according to a recent United States census study,
8 fifty-one percent of New Mexico's children live in low-income
9 households; and

10 WHEREAS, poverty is a key risk factor for a child's
11 achievement in school, and educational attainment is a key
12 determinant to a child's future economic security; and

13 WHEREAS, evaluations by Rutgers university of high-quality
14 early learning programs show that they improve outcomes for
15 children in elementary and secondary schools; and

16 WHEREAS, prevention is more effective and less costly than
17 remediation; and

18 WHEREAS, research published in the *Journal of Public*
19 *Economics* by noted economists shows that investing in early
20 childhood development for disadvantaged children and their
21 families provides a ten percent return on investment each year
22 throughout the child's life through increased personal
23 achievement and social productivity; and

24 WHEREAS, less than twenty percent of children from birth
25 to age five have access to New Mexico's early childhood

.187329.3

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 programs, including home visiting, high-quality child care and
2 the New Mexico pre-kindergarten program, which helps children
3 to be ready to learn in school; and

4 WHEREAS, funding for early childhood services accounts for
5 less than one percent of the state's general fund budget and,
6 overall, the amount of federal and state funding available to
7 children and families has been reduced over the last three
8 years; and

9 WHEREAS, only five percent of families with newborn babies
10 get state-funded services that provide parent coaching or home
11 visiting; and

12 WHEREAS, the state's most recent pre-kindergarten program
13 evaluation showed measurable gains in literacy and mathematics
14 skills for children who participated in child care assistance
15 programs; and

16 WHEREAS, only sixteen percent of New Mexico's four-year-
17 olds had access to participate in child care assistance
18 programs during the 2010-2011 school year; and

19 WHEREAS, funding for child care assistance programs in the
20 state was reduced by twenty-three percent between fiscal years
21 2011 and 2012; and

22 WHEREAS, since fiscal year 2010, the state has reduced
23 payments to child care providers and has increased parents'
24 copayments; and

25 WHEREAS, more than sixty-eight percent of New Mexico

.187329.3

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 families with children rely on child care to work or attend
2 school, and eligibility for child care assistance has been
3 reduced so that six thousand children are on the state's
4 waiting list for child care assistance;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that September 8,
7 2011 be declared "Early Childhood Care and Education Day" at
8 the house of representatives; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico's congressional
10 delegation be requested to seek increased federal funding for
11 early childhood care and education in the state; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that policymakers be requested to
13 ensure that all New Mexico children get access to high-quality
14 early childhood care and education programs and services that
15 will provide them with the opportunity to thrive and find
16 success in school and become productive members of their
17 communities; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that high-quality early childhood
19 care and education programs and services be recognized as
20 critically important to the health, well being and economic
21 vitality of all New Mexico communities; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the communities and
23 organizations that are currently providing high-quality early
24 childhood care and education be commended; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies and tribal,

.187329.3

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1 county, municipal and other governmental entities be urged to
2 support the improvement of the accessibility and quality of
3 early childhood care and education services; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the governor and to the members of New Mexico's
6 congressional delegation.

7 - 5 -
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25