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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT
REPORT TO THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON ISSUES RELATED TO FOSTER CARE AND CHILD
PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

WHEREAS, hundreds of New Mexico's children are in need
of short-term or long-term foster care; and

WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department is
charged with administering child protective services,
including foster care; and

WHEREAS, the protective services division of the
children, youth and families department's stated mission is
to serve children, youth and families by protecting children
and youth from abuse and neglect, pursuing timely permanency
and promoting well-being; and

WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department has
experienced issues related to insufficient staffing,
difficulty with staff retention, high position vacancy rates
and high caseloads; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that foster homes provide a safe and
healthy home environment is critical to the well-being and
healthy development of New Mexico's foster children;

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

1 department be requested to prepare a report on foster care
2 and child protective services in the state; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include the
4 following information:

5 A. the limit, if any, on the number of foster
6 children that may be placed in a single foster home at one
7 time;

8 B. the average number of foster children per
9 foster home;

10 C. the largest number of foster children that have
11 been placed in a single foster home at one time;

12 D. the average number of foster homes into which
13 foster children are placed during the time those children are
14 in the care of the children, youth and families department;

15 E. over the past five years, the placement
16 stability data collected by the children, youth and families
17 department;

18 F. how foster homes for emergency foster
19 placements are identified and selected;

20 G. the children, youth and families department's
21 current plan for identifying and certifying foster families;

22 H. the last date on which the standards for
23 certifying a foster home were updated;

24 I. all behavioral health concerns that have been
25 identified over the past five years among foster children;

1 J. information and data from the past ten years
2 regarding foster children after they reach the age of
3 eighteen;

4 K. the total number of cases opened by the
5 protective services division of the children, youth and
6 families department each month, for the past thirty-six
7 months;

8 L. listed by month, the average number of cases
9 managed by protective services division social workers for
10 the past thirty-six months;

11 M. the average salary of protective services
12 division social workers for the past thirty-six months;

13 N. over the past thirty-six months, the number of
14 cases opened by the protective services division based on
15 reports by:

16 (1) schools;

17 (2) abused or neglected children;

18 (3) relatives of abused or neglected
19 children;

20 (4) neighbors of abused or neglected
21 children; and

22 (5) others;

23 O. any obstacles, including laws, regulations and
24 policies, that prevent the protective services division from
25 meeting its stated mission and goals; and

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P. the education and training provided to all protective services division staff before and during employment with the division; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and families department present the report to the interim legislative health and human services committee by November 2014, including an identification of any information that is not provided for lack of data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families.
