

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES TO
3 STUDY THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE FOR
4 GRANDPARENTS WITH LIMITED INCOMES WHO ARE RAISING THEIR
5 GRANDCHILDREN.

6
7 WHEREAS, grandparents in New Mexico are increasingly
8 undertaking the challenges and joys of raising their
9 grandchildren when parents are unable, for a variety of
10 reasons, to raise their own children; and

11 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren often
12 confront significant financial hardship in taking on the
13 full-time care of their grandchildren; and

14 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren frequently
15 find themselves living in poverty and struggling to care for
16 their grandchildren; and

17 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren are often
18 faced with their own health issues, which can further
19 exacerbate difficult financial circumstances; and

20 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren may face
21 barriers to formal adoption or guardianship of their
22 grandchildren, such as the lack of affordable legal
23 assistance; and

24 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren often have
25 difficulty navigating government and community support

1 systems for their grandchildren because they lack the
2 authority to make legal decisions on behalf of their
3 grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren are often
5 ineligible for the financial resources that are available to
6 foster care providers; and

7 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state that a child
8 should be raised by family members or kinship caregivers
9 whenever possible; and

10 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren should have
11 access to the tools and resources that are needed to nurture
12 their grandchildren and ensure that they reach their full
13 potential; and

14 WHEREAS, Las Cumbres community services, inc., is an
15 organization that provides ongoing services for grandparents
16 through an active support group, statewide conferences and
17 other services that address the issues and struggles being
18 faced by grandparents raising grandchildren; and

19 WHEREAS, despite the existence of community support
20 organizations such as Las Cumbres community services, inc.,
21 there remains an unmet need for financial, legal and
22 community resources to support grandparents who have
23 undertaken the responsibility of caring for their
24 grandchildren;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of children, youth and
2 families be requested to conduct a study of the situation
3 faced by grandparents raising grandchildren in the state; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should include an
5 examination of issues affecting custody and guardianship and
6 the availability of resources and assistance, including
7 financial resources; legal services; food and housing
8 assistance; community-based support organizations, such as
9 Las Cumbres community services, inc.; and programs related to
10 medical care, transportation and education; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should incorporate
12 input from the human services department and the public
13 education department; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the study be
15 reported to the legislative health and human services
16 committee by October 2014; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the children, youth and families department,
19 the human services department, the public education department
20 and the legislative health and human services committee. _____

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