

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE EXTENDED TO STUDY AND
3 RECOMMEND POLICY CHANGES TO EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF
4 RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE FOR GRANDPARENTS RAISING
5 GRANDCHILDREN.

6
7 WHEREAS, in 2014 the children, youth and families
8 department published a study on the availability of resources
9 to grandparents raising grandchildren, which study revealed a
10 dearth of public services and resources available to
11 grandparents raising grandchildren and, in particular, to
12 grandparents who lack legal custody of their grandchildren;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, a task force was convened in 2015 to study and
15 recommend concrete policy changes that could be implemented
16 to expand the availability of resources and assistance to
17 grandparents raising grandchildren, including financial
18 resources; legal services; and assistance with food, housing,
19 medical care, child care, transportation and education; and

20 WHEREAS, the task force delivered its recommendations in
21 2016 to the legislative health and human services committee
22 and the legislative finance committee; and

23 WHEREAS, the recommendations included extending the task
24 force for an additional year to continue its studies and
25 refine its recommendations;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the task
3 force, including members who represent New Mexico voices for
4 children, Pegasus legal services for children, the New Mexico
5 coalition of educational leaders, court appointed special
6 advocates for children, the New Mexico parent-teacher
7 association, parents reaching out, the American association
8 of retired persons and Las Cumbres community services, inc.;
9 one representative each from the human services department,
10 the children, youth and families department, the children's
11 court, the public education department, the aging and long-
12 term services department and the office of the attorney
13 general; and two members from the general public, be
14 extended; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study and
16 recommend concrete policy changes that could be implemented
17 in order to expand the availability of resources and
18 assistance to grandparents raising grandchildren, including
19 financial resources; legal services; food and housing
20 assistance; and programs relating to medical care, child
21 care, transportation and education; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services
23 department, the children, youth and families department and
24 the aging and long-term services department be requested to
25 coordinate and provide staff support to the task force; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
2 findings and recommendations to the legislative health and
3 human services committee and the legislative finance
4 committee no later than November 2017; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the secretary
7 of children, youth and families and the secretary of aging
8 and long-term services.

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