

HOUSE MEMORIAL 113

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE LAND OFFICE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
CREATING AN EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND FOR THE PROVISION OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD SERVICES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has the highest rate of child poverty
in the United States, according to a study by New Mexico voices
for children; and

WHEREAS, brain and biological development during the first
years of life is highly influenced by environment, and early
childhood experiences may determine health, education, economic
and social participation for the rest of a person's life; and

WHEREAS, investing in young children is an essential
component for the development of New Mexico, as early
opportunities for learning increase the likelihood that a child
will attend school and, as an adult, achieve higher income,

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1 maintain better health, experience less crime and have lower
2 levels of welfare dependence than those who do not receive
3 early development support; and

4 WHEREAS, the federal government holds a vast amount of
5 unleased federal subsurface mineral acreage beneath private
6 land within New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, this unleased federal subsurface mineral acreage
8 beneath private land within New Mexico could be transferred to
9 the state of New Mexico and managed by the state land office to
10 be held in trust for the purpose of raising revenue to
11 specifically support and fund early childhood services; and

12 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 182 was introduced in the 2017
13 legislative session to create funds to provide for early
14 childhood services;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state land
17 office be requested to study the feasibility of creating an
18 early childhood fund; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state land office report
20 its findings and recommendations to the legislative finance
21 committee and appropriate interim committees by October 1,
22 2017; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the commissioner of public lands, the co-chairs
25 of the New Mexico legislative council and the chair of the

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1 legislative finance committee.

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