

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONVENE A
12 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RESTRUCTURING TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE
13 THE RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE
14 CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF
15 HEALTH AND THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND TO MAKE
16 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICES AND SUPPORTS
17 FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

18
19 WHEREAS, in 2010, the government restructuring task force
20 issued its findings and recommendations pursuant to its review
21 of efficiencies that could be gained by consolidating some
22 functions in state government; and

23 WHEREAS, there are many efficiencies that the government
24 restructuring task force identified that have yet to be
25 implemented; and

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1 WHEREAS, among the recommendations that the task force
2 made was the recommendation to examine the four major
3 departments of state government dealing with health and human
4 services: the human services department, the aging and long-
5 term services department, the children, youth and families
6 department and the department of health, as well as the many
7 other state boards, commissions, councils and offices with
8 health or human service missions; and

9 WHEREAS, the government restructuring task force made a
10 finding that "consolidations leading to a simple, reasonable,
11 coherent structure for health and human services policy and
12 service delivery would realize benefits through each of the
13 task force's guiding principles: efficiency, effectiveness,
14 accountability and transparency"; and

15 WHEREAS, the government restructuring task force made a
16 finding that "the many structures currently existing for one
17 category of core service cannot be efficient, accountable or
18 transparent and cannot possibly cost less or be more effective
19 than a coherent structure"; and

20 WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department, the
21 department of health and the human services department all
22 provide vital health and human services supports and services
23 to New Mexico's children and families; and

24 WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department is
25 charged with developing policies and plans for services that

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1 include protective services, foster care, juvenile justice and
2 many other functions of vital importance to children, youth and
3 families statewide; and

4 WHEREAS, the department of health is charged with carrying
5 out the laws and providing services related to public health,
6 including strategic health planning for statewide
7 implementation; responding to threats to public health;
8 licensing health facilities; providing direct care through
9 department-operated health facilities, such as clinics, the New
10 Mexico behavioral health institute at Las Vegas and the Fort
11 Bayard medical center; administering programs such as those
12 related to dental care, suicide prevention, infant and maternal
13 mortality, medical cannabis and other programs for prevention
14 and treatment of health conditions; collecting and sharing
15 aggregated health data; operating the state's scientific
16 laboratory system and co-administering with the human services
17 department the developmental disabilities medicaid waiver
18 program, among many other functions; and

19 WHEREAS, the human services department is charged with
20 administering many of the state's largest human services
21 programs, including medicaid and other medical assistance;
22 administering the supplemental nutrition assistance program;
23 providing general assistance and cash assistance through
24 temporary assistance for needy families; administering child
25 support enforcement; providing access to behavioral health

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1 services statewide; providing refugee assistance; and co-
2 administering with the department of health the developmental
3 disabilities medicaid waiver program, among other functions;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the missions of the children, youth and families
6 department, the department of health and the human services
7 department overlap in many ways with respect to the provision
8 of health and human services to New Mexico's children and
9 families;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
12 requested to convene a health and human services restructuring
13 task force to examine the respective functions of and resources
14 available to the children, youth and families department, the
15 department of health and the human services department and to
16 make recommendations for taking advantage of the possibilities
17 for increased efficiencies; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
19 council be requested to charge the health and human services
20 restructuring task force with examining memoranda of
21 understanding; joint contractual relationships with private
22 providers; consolidated budget requests and use of money via
23 contracts, shared departmental structures and economies in
24 personnel management; and regional outreach and education to
25 determine how the children, youth and families department, the

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1 department of health and the human services department can be
2 reorganized to meet their responsibilities with respect to New
3 Mexico's children and families with greater efficiency and
4 increased quality of services; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
6 council be requested to invite the following to join the health
7 and human services restructuring task force: representatives
8 from the children, youth and families department; the
9 department of health; the human services department; the New
10 Mexico sentencing commission; the judiciary; court-appointed
11 advocates; juvenile justice experts and advocates; state,
12 county and local law enforcement; hearing officers; corrections
13 officials; guardians ad litem; representatives of children;
14 parents; foster children; foster parents; and representatives
15 from the children and family advocacy community, including
16 grandparents raising grandchildren; teachers; social workers;
17 pediatricians; nurses; and legal services providers, including
18 Pegasus legal services for children; and others as the New
19 Mexico legislative council deems appropriate; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
21 council charge the health and human services restructuring task
22 force with reporting its findings and recommendations to the
23 legislative health and human services committee and the
24 legislative finance committee by December 1, 2018; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the president pro tempore of the senate, the
2 speaker of the house of representatives, the governor, the
3 legislative health and human services committee, the
4 legislative finance committee, the secretary of children, youth
5 and families, the secretary of health and the secretary of
6 human services.

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