

HOUSE FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 10

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES TO
CONVENE A CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND
CHANGES FOR IMPROVING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN IN
THE CARE OF THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM BY IMPROVING
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
DEPARTMENT AND RESOURCE FAMILIES, FOR BETTER SUPPORTING
RESOURCE FAMILIES AND FOR COLLABORATIVELY WORKING TOWARD BETTER
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF RESOURCE FAMILIES.

WHEREAS, the child protective services division of the
children, youth and families department serves the state's most
vulnerable populations, who are children in need of the state's
intervention and protection; and

WHEREAS, resource families, which include foster families
and families led by guardians and kinship caregivers, are

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1 children in the care of the child protective services system by
2 improving the relationship between the children, youth and
3 families department and resource families, for better
4 supporting resource families and for collaboratively working
5 toward better recruitment and retention of resource families;
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
8 to:

9 A. recommend the implementation in all protective
10 services division offices and programs throughout the state of
11 uniform and consistent policies and procedures, and a plan to
12 implement those policies and procedures to ensure that resource
13 families are appropriately supported, recruited and retained;

14 B. recommend measures to ensure that all children,
15 youth and families department rules are made easily available
16 to every resource family, as well as all interested
17 stakeholders and members of the general public;

18 C. recommend measures to ensure that current rules
19 and procedures support New Mexicans who devote themselves to
20 being resource families and streamline the foster care system
21 to reduce bureaucratic burdens on resource families;

22 D. review training, support and ongoing
23 opportunities to retain resource families, to study resource
24 family retention and to determine desired and needed training
25 topics and best sources of support;

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of children,
2 youth and families be requested to invite to participate in
3 discussions of the child protective services task force as
4 appropriate:

5 A. a child care services or other children's
6 service provider;

7 B. a court-appointed special advocate;

8 C. an expert in education;

9 D. an expert from a nonprofit children's advocacy
10 organization;

11 E. a representative of a sexual minority community;

12 F. a representative of a gender minority community;

13 G. an expert on the federal Indian Child Welfare
14 Act of 1978; and

15 H. other stakeholders whose expertise the secretary
16 of children, youth and families deems necessary to the work of
17 the child protective services task force; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that findings and recommendations
19 of the task force be presented to the legislative health and
20 human services committee by October 1, 2020; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the governor, the chair of the legislative
23 health and human services committee, the secretary of children,
24 youth and families, the co-chairs of the children's court
25 improvement commission, the director of the child protective

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