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SENATE MEMORIAL 13

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO AND MEMBERS OF THE
2020 J. PAUL TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE AND REQUESTING
THEM TO RECONVENE THE J. PAUL TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE
IN 2021.

WHEREAS, since 2013, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood
task force has been made up of experts in child well-being,
early childhood development, health care, social work,
education, government, public benefits, law and administration
as well as other areas of expertise; and

WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
met at the legislature's request to analyze matters relating to
the prevention of adverse childhood experiences and support of
the education and health of children and families, and to make
recommendations on improving the prevention of adverse

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1 childhood experiences, specifically child neglect, and
2 improving the early education of children and their families by
3 advising the legislature and other policymakers; and

4 WHEREAS, in recent years, the university of New Mexico has
5 volunteered to convene and provide administrative support for
6 the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force; and

7 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force is
8 named for former long-time member of the New Mexico house of
9 representatives, J. Paul Taylor, of Mesilla, New Mexico, who
10 has contributed greatly to the field of children's rights and
11 well-being during his long and distinguished career in public
12 service; and

13 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force has
14 done much in recent years to educate the legislature and other
15 policymakers on critical aspects of childhood development and
16 the role that policymakers play in supporting the health and
17 well-being of children and their families; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2018, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task
19 force recommended changes to state law that would clarify the
20 role of hospitals and birthing centers in referring abuse and
21 neglect cases to the children, youth and families department
22 based solely on the finding of a pregnant woman's positive
23 toxicology screen; and

24 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force
25 engaged with various stakeholders, including the Comprehensive

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1 Addiction and Recovery Act task force at the children, youth
2 and families department, to incorporate into its
3 recommendations various federal requirements for the safe care
4 of infants born with substance use disorders or showing
5 withdrawal symptoms; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2019 and 2020, the J. Paul Taylor early
7 childhood task force presented its findings to the legislative
8 health and human services committee about best practices for
9 implementing treatment-focused plans of care for substance-
10 exposed newborns and their families; and

11 WHEREAS, the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force
12 plans to continue its work on recommendations to address the
13 effect of substance use on pregnant women and children in the
14 first three years of life, specifically to study and build upon
15 the recommendations of the task force for a pathway to
16 comprehensive care for children and families throughout
17 childhood that incorporates the concepts of developmental
18 assets created by a national nonprofit organization; and

19 WHEREAS, such a model identifies a number of research-
20 based, external experiences and internal qualities that support
21 children's development, helping them create and maintain
22 resilience to become caring, responsible and productive adults;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the dedicated members of the J. Paul Taylor
25 early childhood task force and the university of New Mexico be

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1 recognized for their work on behalf of the youngest New
2 Mexicans; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico
4 be requested to reconvene the J. Paul Taylor early childhood
5 task force in 2021 to continue its work in investigating the
6 effects of parental mental illness, substance use disorders and
7 family violence on young children and its work in making
8 recommendations to address these issues; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the J. Paul Taylor early
10 childhood task force be requested to report its findings and
11 recommendations to the legislative health and human services
12 committee by November 1, 2021; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the president of the university of New Mexico,
15 the 2020 chair of the J. Paul Taylor early childhood task force
16 and the chair and vice chair of the legislative health and
17 human services committee.