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HOUSE BILL 166

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

LUCIANO "LUCKY" VARELA

AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILIES; ENACTING THE FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. --This act may be cited as the "Family Preservation Act".

Section 2. LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE. --The purpose of the Family Preservation Act is to confirm the state's policy of support for the family and to emphasize the responsibilities of parents and the state in the healthy development of children and the family as an institution. The Family Preservation Act is also intended to serve as a benchmark against which other legislation can be measured to assess whether it furthers the goals of preserving and enhancing families in New Mexico.

Section 3. FAMILY PRESERVATION GOALS--STATEMENT OF POLICY. --It is the policy of the state that its laws and

1 programs should:

2 A. support intact, functional families and promote
3 each family's ability and responsibility to raise its children;

4 B. strengthen families in crisis and at-risk of
5 losing their children, so that children can remain safely in
6 their own homes and communities;

7 C. promote the creation of well-paying, stable jobs
8 so that families can provide for their basic needs, including
9 health, education, food, clothing and shelter; and

10 D. help halt the breakup of the nuclear family,
11 stabilize neighborhoods and strengthen communities.

12 Section 4. PARENTAL AND STATE RESPONSIBILITIES. --

13 A. Parents have joint primary responsibility for the
14 well-being of their family. Parents have the primary
15 responsibility to:

16 (1) ensure that their children have adequate
17 food, shelter, medical care and a healthy environment;

18 (2) support their children in all ways possible
19 to grow up to be responsible, caring members of society;

20 (3) ensure that their children receive a
21 quality education both in and out of school to prepare them for
22 active and productive adult lives;

23 (4) protect their children from the serious
24 dangers of narcotics, alcohol and other harmful substances; and

25 (5) protect their children from all forms of

Underscored material = new
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1 exploitation harmful to any aspect of their welfare.

2 B. The state has a responsibility to:

3 (1) make available to families free, quality
4 primary and secondary educational institutions;

5 (2) provide public safety services so that
6 family members are safe in their homes, schools, workplaces and
7 recreational settings;

8 (3) make available social service programs that
9 support vulnerable families and protect children in danger of
10 physical or serious emotional harm;

11 (4) develop programs that build on the
12 strengths of families and connect them with community resources;

13 (5) provide parents with access to the training
14 and support they need to raise their children, to function
15 effectively as parents and to play a key role in helping
16 preschool and growing children learn; and

17 (6) assist parents in carrying out their primary
18 responsibility of providing for the well-being of their family.

State of New Mexico
House of Representatives

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4 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
5 FIRST SESSION, 1997
6
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8 February 20, 1997
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11 Mr. Speaker:
12

13 Your CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to
14 whom has been referred

15
16 HOUSE BILL 166

17 has had it under consideration and reports same with
18 recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:
19

20 1. On page 2, line 17, strike "medical care" and insert in
21 lieu thereof "health care".

22
23 2. On page 3, line 2, after "to" insert "develop plans to".
24
25 and thence referred to the APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE
COMMITTEE.

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

HCPAC/HB 166

Page 5

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Respectfully submitted,

Gary King, Chairman

Adopted _____

Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 7 For 1 Against

Yes: 7

No: Dana

Excused: Rios, Vigil

Absent: None

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State of New Mexico House of Representatives

**FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997**

March 5, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

**Your APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, to
whom has been referred**

HOUSE BILL 166, as amended

**has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.**

Respectfully submitted,

Max Coll, Chairman

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 13 For 2 Against

Yes: 13

No: Bird, Pearce

Excused: Wallace, Watchman

Absent: None

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

Page 8

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 21, 1997

Mr. President:

Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

HOUSE BILL 166, as amended

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Robinson, Chairman

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 4 For 2 Against

Yes: 4

No: Adair, Vernon

Excused: Boitano, Ingle, Smith

Absent: None

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