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SENATE MEMORIAL 20

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez and Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN'S COURT IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION OF THE
NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT TO CONSIDER CREATING A CHILDREN'S CODE
REFORM TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
AMENDMENTS TO THE CHILDREN'S CODE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's Children's Code is the legal
framework regarding a child's care, health and safety in the
state, as well as for any abuse or neglect investigations; and

WHEREAS, community advocates have expressed a need and
desire to amend the Children's Code to make it more responsive;
and

WHEREAS, a task force to explore these issues would be
beneficial;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
OF NEW MEXICO that the children's court improvement commission

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1 of the New Mexico supreme court be requested to consider
2 creating a Children's Code reform task force to study and make
3 recommendations for amendments to the Children's Code; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children's court
5 improvement commission of the New Mexico supreme court consider
6 appointing task force members from or to receive input and
7 recommendations from:

- 8 A. the children, youth and families department;
- 9 B. children's court judges;
- 10 C. the department of health;
- 11 D. the human services department;
- 12 E. the public education department;
- 13 F. the workforce solutions department;
- 14 G. the department of public safety;
- 15 H. the corrections department;
- 16 I. the economic development department;
- 17 J. the early childhood education and care
18 department;
- 19 K. the administrative office of the courts;
- 20 L. the children's court improvement commission;
- 21 M. local law enforcement agencies;
- 22 N. the legislative finance committee;
- 23 O. the public defender department's juvenile
24 division;
- 25 P. the New Mexico district attorney association;

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- 1 Q. the governments of New Mexico's twenty-three
2 Indian nations, tribes and pueblos;
- 3 R. the tribal-state judicial consortium;
- 4 S. the substitute care advisory council;
- 5 T. the New Mexico CASA association;
- 6 U. the children's court mediation program;
- 7 V. the university of New Mexico school of law's
8 Corinne Wolfe center for child and family justice;
- 9 W. the New Mexico tribal Indian children welfare
10 consortium;
- 11 X. parents', children's and youth attorneys;
- 12 Y. mental health service providers;
- 13 Z. former foster youth;
- 14 AA. system-involved parents;
- 15 BB. New Mexico voices for children;
- 16 CC. NMCAN;
- 17 DD. New Mexico appleseed;
- 18 EE. the university of New Mexico school of
19 medicine's department of pediatrics;
- 20 FF. representatives of the university of New Mexico
21 school of medicine's department of psychiatry and behavioral
22 sciences who have experience working with children;
- 23 GG. the university of New Mexico school of
24 medicine's department of family and community medicine;
- 25 HH. a nonprofit legal firm representing foster

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1 children, grandparents and kin;

2 II. a nonprofit organization serving families and
3 children through counseling and social programs;

4 JJ. the national council of juvenile and family
5 court judges;

6 KK. other children and family policy community
7 advocacy and stakeholder groups;

8 LL. the New Mexico sentencing commission; and

9 MM. the Indian affairs department; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the president pro tempore and
11 minority floor leader of the senate each appoint one member to
12 the task force and that the speaker and minority floor leader
13 of the house of representatives each appoint one member to the
14 task force; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children's court
16 improvement commission of the New Mexico supreme court be
17 requested to provide staff for the Children's Code reform task
18 force; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Children's Code reform
20 task force be requested to report its findings and
21 recommendations to the governor, the legislative finance
22 committee, the legislative health and human services committee,
23 the legislative interim committee that studies courts,
24 corrections and justice issues and other appropriate interim
25 committees by November 1, 2023; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the house of representatives; the senate; the
3 secretary of children, youth and families; the secretary of
4 health; the secretary of human services; the secretary of
5 public education; the secretary of workforce solutions; the
6 secretary of public safety; the secretary of corrections; the
7 secretary of economic development; the secretary of early
8 childhood education and care; the director of the
9 administrative office of the courts; the chief justice of the
10 New Mexico supreme court for the children's court improvement
11 commission; the secretary of public safety; the chair of the
12 legislative finance committee; the chief public defender of the
13 public defender department; the president of the New Mexico
14 district attorney association; New Mexico's twenty-three Indian
15 nations, tribes and pueblos; the tribal-state judicial
16 consortium; the substitute care advisory council; the director
17 of the New Mexico CASA association; the children's court
18 mediation program; the dean of the university of New Mexico
19 school of law; the New Mexico tribal Indian children welfare
20 consortium; the executive director of New Mexico voices for
21 children; the president of the board of NMCAN; the executive
22 director of New Mexico appleseed; the president of the
23 university of New Mexico school of medicine; the president of
24 the national council of juvenile and family court judges; the
25 chair of the New Mexico sentencing commission; the secretary of

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1 Indian affairs; and other stakeholders as identified by the
2 children's court improvement commission.

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