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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Tomás E. Salazar

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE SECRETARY OF AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES
APPOINT A COALITION OF INTERESTED PARTIES TO STUDY THE ROLE OF
FAMILY CAREGIVERS, IDENTIFY POLICIES AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO
FAMILY CAREGIVERS AND IDENTIFY POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT
FAMILY CAREGIVERS.

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

WHEREAS, the population of New Mexico that is eighty-five
years of age or older and most likely to need caregiving
assistance is projected to reach seventy-five thousand six
hundred in 2030; and

WHEREAS, almost all older adults who need assistance with
activities of daily living want to remain in their homes and
communities; and

WHEREAS, providing services and supports to older adults

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1 in their homes and communities is generally much less expensive
2 than nursing home care; and

3 WHEREAS, older adults who receive services from caregivers
4 in their homes are much less likely to need public assistance;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, almost three-fourths of older adults living in
7 the community who received personal assistance relied
8 exclusively on unpaid caregivers for help; and

9 WHEREAS, eighty percent of care is provided in the
10 community by unpaid caregivers, usually family members; and

11 WHEREAS, an estimated four hundred nineteen thousand
12 adults in New Mexico provide care to adult relatives or friends
13 each year, which equates to an estimated two hundred seventy-
14 four million hours a year and an estimated value of three
15 billion one hundred million dollars (\$3,100,000,000) each year;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, nationally, seventy percent of people with
18 Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia live at home and need
19 assistance with activities of daily living; and

20 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state plan for Alzheimer's disease
21 and related dementias recommended supporting and empowering
22 unpaid caregivers by providing access to culturally competent
23 support services and expanding evidence-based caregiver
24 training; and

25 WHEREAS, to successfully address the surging population of

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1 older adults who have significant needs for long-term services
2 and supports, the state must develop methods to both encourage
3 and support families to assist their aging relatives and
4 develop ways to recruit and retain a qualified, responsive in-
5 home care work force;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of aging and long-term
8 services be requested to establish a family caregiver coalition
9 to identify policies, resources and programs available for
10 family caregivers and encourage additional innovative and
11 creative means to support family caregivers to continue to
12 provide needed in-home support for older adults; receive
13 testimony on the needs of family caregivers, including
14 designation of caregivers, training, respite services, medical
15 leave policies, delegation to nonmedical aides and other
16 policies; and compile an inventory of the resources available
17 to caregivers throughout the state; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coalition include the
19 following members:

20 A. the secretary of health or the secretary's
21 designee;

22 B. the secretary of veterans' services or the
23 secretary's designee;

24 C. the secretary of human services or the
25 secretary's designee;

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