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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4

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

INTRODUCED BY

Tomás E. Salazar

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CONVENE A NEW MEXICO FAMILY CAREGIVER TASK FORCE TO CREATE A
STATE PLAN FOR ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES FACED BY FAMILY
CAREGIVERS.

WHEREAS, the population of the state 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
in their homes and communities is generally much less expensive
than nursing home care; and

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

4 WHEREAS, almost three-fourths of older people living in
5 the community who receive personal assistance rely exclusively
6 on unpaid caregivers for help; and

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, to successfully address the surging population of
24 older adults who have significant needs for long-term services
25 and supports, the state must develop methods to both encourage

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1 and support families to assist their aging relatives and
2 develop ways to recruit and retain a qualified, responsive in-
3 home care work force;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of aging and long-term
6 services convene a New Mexico family caregiver task force to
7 identify resources and programs available for family
8 caregivers; receive testimony on the needs of family
9 caregivers, including designation of caregivers, training,
10 respite services, medical leave policies, delegation of tasks
11 to nonmedical aides and other policies; compile an inventory of
12 the resources available to family caregivers; make policy
13 recommendations regarding family caregivers in the state; and
14 develop a New Mexico state plan for family caregivers; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include the
16 following members:

17 A. the secretary of health or the secretary's
18 designee;

19 B. the secretary of veterans' services or the
20 secretary's designee;

21 C. the secretary of human services or the
22 secretary's designee;

23 D. the secretary of Indian affairs or the
24 secretary's designee;

25 E. one representative of the Alzheimer's

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1 association, appointed by the Alzheimer's association;

2 F. one representative from each of the four area
3 agencies on aging, appointed by the bureau chief of the senior
4 services bureau of the aging and long-term services department;

5 G. one representative of AARP, appointed by AARP;

6 H. one family caregiver, appointed by the governor;

7 I. one representative of the adult daycare services
8 industry, appointed by the New Mexico association of adult
9 daycare;

10 J. one representative of the department of health's
11 office of rural primary health care, appointed by the director
12 of the office of rural primary health care;

13 K. one representative of the developmental
14 disabilities planning council, appointed by the developmental
15 disabilities planning council;

16 L. one representative of the case management
17 industry, appointed by the secretary of aging and long-term
18 services;

19 M. one representative of the home care and hospice
20 industry, appointed by the New Mexico association of home and
21 hospice care;

22 N. one representative of the senior companion
23 programs, appointed by the bureau chief of the senior services
24 bureau of the aging and long-term services department;

25 O. one representative of the community health

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1 workers association, appointed by the department of health;

2 P. one representative of the governor's commission
3 on disability, appointed by the governor;

4 Q. the director of the medical assistance division
5 of the human services department or the director's designee;

6 R. one representative of the medical care provider
7 community, appointed by the director of the university of New
8 Mexico division of geriatrics and palliative medicine; and

9 S. representatives of other associations or
10 organizations that represent caregivers, families, service
11 providers or advocacy groups as deemed appropriate by the
12 secretary of aging and long-term services; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aging and long-term
14 services department report on the work of the task force to the
15 legislative health and human services committee no later than
16 November 1, 2015; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the secretary of aging and long-term services
19 and other officials and organizations being requested to serve
20 on the task force.