

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21  
INTRODUCED BY V. COCCHIARELLA

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO WORK TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE AND TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF CHILD CARE IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, 72% of Montana children under 6 years of age live with two employed parents or an employed single head of household; and

WHEREAS, there is a network of Child Care Resource and Referral Programs in Montana to assist parents in locating and paying for child care and to train child-care workers; and

WHEREAS, parents should have choice in the type of child care that their children receive, including home care; and

WHEREAS, child care for all Montana children should be accessible, affordable, and of high quality; and

WHEREAS, economic self-sufficiency is directly dependent upon access to quality, affordable child care while parents are at work or in school.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Department of Public Health and Human Services be directed to work with the Child Care Resource and Referral Network to increase the availability of child care throughout Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Health and Human Services Early Childhood Services Program review the status of child care in Montana before August 1, 2004, for presentation to the Governor's Council on Families and that the review be reported to the 59th Legislature, as provided in 5-11-210.

- END -

