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**For Immediate Release**

## **Human Services Department Supports Legislation to Revise the Basic Child Support Schedule**

### **Bill Requests First Change in 14 Years**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – The Human Services Department is supporting legislation that will revise the basic child support schedule, a first in 14 years. House Bill 412, sponsored by Representative Al Park recommends changes to the New Mexico child support guidelines to be effective July 1, 2008.

Under federal and state laws, the state's child support guidelines are required to be reviewed every four years. Last year the New Mexico Child Support Guidelines Commission, comprised of District Judges, a child support hearing officer, attorneys, child support enforcement staff and an economist who specializes in child support guidelines reviewed the most recent economic data on child rearing costs, tax rates and a review of child support case data.

“After considering the data and the comments from the community during public hearings throughout the state last year, the New Mexico Child Support Guidelines Commission proposed a moderate increase in the guidelines to keep pace with the state's economy,” said Charissa Saavedra, Child Support Division Director with the Human Services Department.

The proposed adjustments to the basic child support schedule are based on the combined adjusted income of both parents. The adjustment for the average middle-income family ranges from approximately two to five percent increase.

HB 412 has been assigned to the House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

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