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**February 4, 2008**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **Legislation to Revise the Basic Child Support Schedule Unanimously Approved by House of Representatives**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – The New Mexico House of Representatives today unanimously passed House Bill 412, sponsored by Representative Al Park, which revises the basic child support schedule, effective July 1, 2008.

The proposed adjustments to the basic child support schedule are based on the combined gross income of both parents. The adjustment for the average middle-income family ranges from approximately a two to five percent increase. The child support guidelines have not been changed in 14 years.

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.

HB 412 now goes over to the Senate for approval.

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