



## **SUPPORT SENATE BILL 146 (Senator Linda Lopez)**

### **Create a Guardianship Assistance Program to Better Support Children and Youth**

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#### **THE ISSUE**

When children are taken into the child welfare system, they often lose everything they know—their parents, their home, their siblings, friends, school, pets, etc. Placement with family when a child cannot live safely with their parents can minimize the trauma of removal. Many grandparents are raising grandchildren who would otherwise be in the foster care system, but do not receive the much-needed financial assistance.

#### **THE OPPORTUNITY**

The subsidized guardianship bill will address this concern by:

- Providing financial assistance to grandparents or other caregivers who assume legal guardianship of a child in foster care or other out-of-home placement.
- Keeping children and youth with family—maintaining their relationships with siblings, extended family members, and their community.
- Preventing the disruption and trauma children and youth face when they are removed from their families.
- Improving child well-being, increasing permanence, and improving behavioral and mental health outcomes of these children and youth.

SEE REVERSE FOR FAQ'S

## Support Senate Bill 146 (Senator Linda Lopez)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Who is this legislation for?

This legislation will benefit children and youth who will be able to be cared for by family members when they cannot safely live with their parents, and the family members who want to assume guardianship but need financial assistance.

#### What will the bill do?

The proposed legislation creates a guardianship assistance program, allowing the state to access federal funds to provide financial assistance to kin who assume guardianship of a child or youth.

#### Why do we need it?

Many families are raising grandchildren, nieces, or nephews who would otherwise be in the foster care system, but do not receive the financial assistance foster care providers receive. Often on fixed incomes or financially strained due to providing for their own children, these caregivers need support. Living with family when a child or youth cannot live safely with their parents provides a number of benefits to the child and minimizes the trauma and poor outcomes faced by children and youth in foster care.

#### What is a kinship guardian?

A kinship guardian is a relative, godparent, member of a child's tribe or clan, or adult with whom the child has a significant who is appointed as a guardian by a court or tribal authority.

#### Who will administer it?

The Children, Youth and Families Department will enter into agreements with eligible relative caregivers and administer payments.

#### Additional Questions

Contact: Ezra Spitzer  
Executive Director  
505-463-0660  
[Ezra.Spitzer@nmcan.org](mailto:Ezra.Spitzer@nmcan.org)

Arika E. Sánchez  
Director of Policy and Advocacy  
808-225-1494  
[Arika.Sanchez@nmcan.org](mailto:Arika.Sanchez@nmcan.org)



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