



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

February 20, 2019

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 8

The Honorable Mary Kay Papen, President Tempore, and
Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable President Pro Tempore Papen and Members of the Senate:

I respectfully request the New Mexico State Senate pass Senate Bill 22 – Early Childhood Education and Care Department in the Fifty-Fourth Legislature, First Session, 2019.

A child's early years of life are formative and constitute the foundation for his or her future health, development and scholastic achievement. It is our collective responsibility to ensure New Mexico's children are afforded the educational opportunities and resources necessary for success.

Senate Bill 22 promotes that objective by establishing the Early Learning and Care Department as a cabinet-level department within the Executive branch. Specifically, the Bill consolidates existing programs into a single Department thereby allowing for comprehensive oversight and administration of all early childhood services in the State of New Mexico. This consolidation of existing childhood services will better serve New Mexico's children because they will receive a continuum of care from birth to age five and enable the State to lay the groundwork for a successful future that encompasses our values as New Mexicans.

For these reasons, I hereby respectfully request that the New Mexico State Senate pass Senate Bill 22.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham".

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: 12:59
Date: 2/20/19

By Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State of New Mexico

Time: 1:07 pm
Date: 2/20/19

By Lucille T. Martinez
for Chief Clerk of the Senate