A MEMORIAL

IN MEMORY OF KAREN TRUJILLO, PH.D., AN ADVOCATE AND CHAMPION
FOR THE CHILDREN OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Karen Trujillo, Ph.D., a widely admired and
respected educator, passed away on February 25, 2021; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo dedicated herself to mentoring
students in her roles as a teacher, educator and
administrator; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was the superintendent of the
Las Cruces public school district at the time of her death;
and
WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo initially served as interim
superintendent of the Las Cruces public school district since
September 2019, and the Las Cruces board of education named
her superintendent in February 2020; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was a steady and compassionate
leader who led the district after a cyberattack crippled
digital systems and then through the coronavirus disease 2019
pandemic, which forced the schools to move to remote
learning; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was credited with bringing calm to
the district at an uncertain time; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo previously served as the secretary
of public education in 2019; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was passionate about education and was a classroom teacher and had been a math teacher at Alma d'Arte charter high school in Las Cruces, a history teacher at Cobre high school in Bayard and a math teacher at Las Cruces high school; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Dr. Trujillo established the science, technology, engineering and mathematics outreach alliance research center, which became the Southwest outreach academic research evaluation and policy center, and her prized accomplishment was creating the annual teacher shortage report; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo served as an interim associate dean for research at New Mexico state university's college of education and research director for the college's alliance for advancement of teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, one of Dr. Trujillo's last actions was getting the Las Cruces board of education's approval for a hybrid learning model that reopened schools at all grade levels; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was also recognized as a dedicated public servant and, in 2018, was elected to the board of county commissioners of Dona Ana county, and, shortly after taking office, the board elected her to be the chair; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo is remembered as a warm, vibrant person who was open and friendly; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo's friends and colleagues knew her
as a tireless advocate for students and admired her calm and
thoughtful manner; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo touched many lives, and her spirit
and compassion will be missed; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo is survived by her husband,
Ben Trujillo, and their three children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Dr. Karen Trujillo be remembered for
her advocacy as a champion for the children of New Mexico;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
transmitted to the family of Dr. Karen Trujillo.