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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 39**  
**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001**  
**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Thomas C. Taylor**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**PROCLAIMING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2001, TO BE "DISABILITY**  
**AWARENESS DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE" AND DECLARING LEGISLATIVE**  
**SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS THAT SERVE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
**LIVING IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.**

**WHEREAS, over nineteen percent of the New Mexico**  
**population is comprised of persons with disabilities, including**  
**young and middle-aged people, seniors, disabled veterans,**  
**paralyzed veterans, parents, husbands, wives, children and**  
**people from all races and ethnic backgrounds; and**

**WHEREAS, disability is a part of the human condition and**  
**is due to varying reasons such as accidents, birth trauma, war,**  
**genetics, environmental contaminants and aging; and**

**WHEREAS, people with disabilities prefer to live in their**

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1 own homes and communities so as to be near friends and  
2 relatives, to work, to go to church and to receive social  
3 stimulation from libraries, schools, theaters, community  
4 centers, shopping malls, museums and other wonderful  
5 attractions in New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, many people with disabilities do not want  
7 institutional living, but need personal care services,  
8 accessibility of the built environment, home modifications,  
9 healthy housing, adequate health insurance and health care and  
10 assistive technology to live independently; and

11 WHEREAS, millions of dollars come into the state to help  
12 New Mexicans with disabilities through medicaid and medicare  
13 programs, vocational rehabilitation programs, housing  
14 programs, education and job training programs, in-home care  
15 programs and transportation programs; and

16 WHEREAS, these programs need vigilant attention by  
17 consumers and legislators to prevent fragmentation, lack of  
18 coordination, funding or accountability; and

19 WHEREAS, the legislature has supported New Mexico disabled  
20 citizens for a long time and it continues to support them and  
21 encourage their involvement with the legislature and society;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 23, 2001 be declared  
24 "Disability Awareness Day At The Legislature" in New Mexico;  
25 and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature support  
disability programs and direct agencies providing services to  
unite and coordinate more effectively their programs to provide  
timely, optimum and appropriate services that assist persons  
with disabilities to live and work independently in their own  
communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
sent to each state agency that provides disability programs.