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SENATE MEMORIAL 7

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Kay Papen

A MEMORIAL

**PROCLAIMING FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2002, TO BE "SENIOR DAY AT THE
LEGISLATURE"; DECLARING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR SENIOR
PROGRAMS AND IN-HOME CARE.**

**WHEREAS, more than one of every ten New Mexicans is over
the age of sixty-five, and New Mexico's senior population is
growing faster than the senior population in forty-one other
states; and**

**WHEREAS, more than seventy thousand New Mexican veterans
are now over the age of sixty and were called upon to defend
the United States of America and the freedom of all American
citizens in wars fought far from home in distant lands; and**

**WHEREAS, seniors living in their own homes in their own
communities in New Mexico have always made and continue to
make important contributions to the economic, social and**

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1 spiritual well-being of those communities; and

2 WHEREAS, in spite of these important contributions to
3 society, many seniors live in poverty and require support
4 services so that they may live comfortably; and

5 WHEREAS, most seniors would prefer to remain in their
6 homes rather than move into institutional long-term care but
7 require services to help them remain at home; and

8 WHEREAS, the array of programs that help the state's
9 seniors remain in their homes and participate in their
10 communities include transportation to health care, shopping
11 and community events; delivery of hot meals and housekeeping
12 services; visiting health care services; mobile clinics for
13 diagnosis and prevention and care for common illnesses
14 experienced by seniors; respite care for home care providers;
15 and other essential services; and

16 WHEREAS, the legislature is committed to providing these
17 services to the seniors in New Mexico, along with senior
18 grandparent programs and retired senior volunteer programs;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the legislature has matched federal dollars
21 coming to the state at a rate of three state dollars to one
22 federal dollar; and

23 WHEREAS, seniors engage actively in the legislative
24 process through direct testimony and support of legislation
25 beneficial to them; and

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