

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING NEW MEXICO YOUNG DISABILITY LEADERS AND
3 ENCOURAGING PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT DISABILITY HISTORY AND
4 AWARENESS INSTRUCTION.

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6 WHEREAS, New Mexico young disability leaders is a
7 collaborative project between the governor's commission on
8 disability and the university of New Mexico's center for
9 development and disability created in July 2010; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico young disability leaders is an
11 advocacy group for people with disabilities, run by
12 individuals ages eighteen to thirty-three with disabilities;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, members of New Mexico young disability leaders
15 have presented at several conferences and conduct panel
16 discussions, presentations and live-action skits to promote
17 awareness and understanding of disabilities; and

18 WHEREAS, members have also begun a peer mentoring
19 program for youths in transition, and more than sixty peer
20 mentors have been certified across New Mexico in the past
21 year; and

22 WHEREAS, members of New Mexico young disability leaders
23 are passionate about public policy that affects people with
24 disabilities; and

25 WHEREAS, the establishment of disability history and

1 awareness instruction in public schools is an important
2 objective; and

3 WHEREAS, the goals of disability history and awareness
4 instruction include:

5 A. instilling in students a sensitivity toward
6 fellow students with disabilities and encouraging educational
7 cultures that nurture safe and inclusive environments for
8 students with disabilities in which bullying is discouraged
9 and respect and appreciation for students with disabilities
10 are encouraged;

11 B. a discussion of disability as a natural part of
12 the human experience, in which individuals are more alike
13 than different;

14 C. an acknowledgment that, regardless of
15 disability, each individual is afforded the same rights and
16 responsibilities as every other individual;

17 D. the creation of a more inclusive school
18 community, where students with disabilities are included in
19 every aspect of society and every student is acknowledged for
20 the student's unique gifts, talents and contributions; and

21 E. a reaffirmation of the local, state and federal
22 commitment to the full inclusion in society of and the equal
23 opportunity for all individuals with disabilities;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that New Mexico young disability leaders

1 be recognized for its contributions in providing awareness and
2 understanding of disabilities; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that educators be encouraged to
4 support the goals of disability history and awareness
5 instruction; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
7 department be requested to encourage each school board to use
8 an established disability curriculum that incorporates the
9 goals for disability history and awareness instruction; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each school district and
11 charter school be encouraged to exercise innovative means to
12 accomplish the goals of disability history and awareness
13 instruction; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state higher education
15 institutions be encouraged to conduct and to promote
16 activities on each campus to provide education, understanding
17 and awareness of individuals with disabilities; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the director
20 of the vocational rehabilitation division of the public
21 education department, the secretary of human services, the
22 superintendent of the New Mexico school for the deaf, the
23 superintendent of the New Mexico school for the blind and
24 visually impaired, the superintendent of the New Mexico
25 military institute and the executive director of the

1 commission for the blind.

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