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SENATE MEMORIAL 48

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

4 WHEREAS, members of New Mexico young disability leaders
5 are passionate about public policy that affects people with
6 disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, the establishment of disability history and
8 awareness instruction in public schools is an important
9 objective; and

10 WHEREAS, the goals of disability history and awareness
11 instruction include:

12 A. instilling in students a sensitivity toward
13 fellow students with disabilities and encouraging educational
14 cultures that nurture safe and inclusive environments for
15 students with disabilities in which bullying is discouraged and
16 respect and appreciation for students with disabilities are
17 encouraged;

18 B. a discussion of disability as a natural part of
19 the human experience, in which individuals are more alike than
20 different;

21 C. an acknowledgment that, regardless of
22 disability, each individual is afforded the same rights and
23 responsibilities as every other individual;

24 D. the creation of a more inclusive school
25 community, where students with disabilities are included in

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1 every aspect of society and every student is acknowledged for
2 the student's unique gifts, talents and contributions; and

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

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
7 OF NEW MEXICO that New Mexico young disability leaders be
8 recognized for its contributions in providing awareness and
9 understanding of disabilities; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that educators be encouraged to
11 support the goals of disability history and awareness
12 instruction; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
14 department be requested to encourage each school board to use
15 an established disability curriculum that incorporates the
16 goals for disability history and awareness instruction; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each school district and
18 charter school be encouraged to exercise innovative means to
19 accomplish the goals of disability history and awareness
20 instruction; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state higher education
22 institutions be encouraged to conduct and to promote activities
23 on each campus to provide education, understanding and
24 awareness of individuals with disabilities; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the director
2 of the vocational rehabilitation division of the public
3 education department, the secretary of human services, the
4 superintendent of the New Mexico school for the deaf, the
5 superintendent of the New Mexico school for the blind and
6 visually impaired, the superintendent of the New Mexico
7 military institute and the executive director of the commission
8 for the blind.

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