

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 13, 2016 "BICYCLE AWARENESS AND SAFETY
3 DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SUPPORTING BICYCLIST
4 NATHAN BARKOCY AND COACH STEPHEN WILLIAMSON.

5
6 WHEREAS, the growing popularity of bicycle riding brings
7 with it increased health benefits, reduced pollution and
8 access to the great outdoors; and

9 WHEREAS, as the popularity of bicycling has increased,
10 however, so have the number of deaths and injuries to
11 bicyclists; and

12 WHEREAS, the department of health reports that New
13 Mexico is the nation's second-deadliest state for bicyclists;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in 2015, sixteen-year-old Nathan Barkocy became
16 the youngest category four racer to win the tour of the Gila
17 in southwestern New Mexico and held aspirations to win in
18 category three in 2016; and

19 WHEREAS, Nathan is a sophomore at St. Pius X high
20 school, and, with several other teenagers, races for the TLC
21 junior development team; and

22 WHEREAS, on January 23, 2016, while Nathan was on a
23 fifty-mile training ride, a car struck Nathan's bike near
24 Coors boulevard and Los Padillas road southwest; and

25 WHEREAS, Nathan was taken to the university of New

1 Mexico hospital, where he was in a coma with a traumatic
2 brain injury; and

3 WHEREAS, Nathan has begun a long road to recovery after
4 his injuries; and

5 WHEREAS, Nathan's coach, Stephen Williamson, also was
6 struck and injured, although not as severely; and

7 WHEREAS, the driver involved in the accident was cited
8 for careless driving; and

9 WHEREAS, devastating accidents like the one in which
10 Nathan and Stephen were involved happen all too frequently,
11 and awareness of bicycle safety is important; and

12 WHEREAS, bicyclists and motorists alike share
13 responsibility for roadway safety through increasing safe-
14 riding behaviors among bicyclists and heightening awareness
15 and personal responsibility among motorists, according to the
16 national highway traffic safety administration; and

17 WHEREAS, bicyclists can put "safety first" by always
18 wearing a helmet; riding as a vehicle on the road; traveling
19 in the same direction as traffic; obeying traffic signs,
20 signals and lane markings; signaling all turns and following
21 local laws; staying visible by wearing bright, reflective
22 colors; using bicycle lights at night; and refraining from
23 the use of electronic devices or riding while impaired by
24 alcohol or drugs; and

25 WHEREAS, drivers of motor vehicles must share the road

1 with bicyclists; respect designated bicycle lanes; allow at
2 least three feet of clearance when passing a bicyclist on the
3 road; look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling
4 out from a parking space; yield to cyclists at intersections
5 and as directed by signs and signals; look for cyclists when
6 making turns; never drive distracted or impaired; and always
7 wear seat belts;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 13,
10 2016 be declared "Bicycle Awareness and Safety Day" in the
11 house of representatives; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that support be extended to
13 bicyclist Nathan Barkocy and coach Stephen Williamson on
14 their road to recovery; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to Nathan Barkocy and Stephen Williamson.

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