

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING REPRESENTATIVE LUCIANO "LUCKY" VARELA.

3
4 WHEREAS, after thirty years of being a force of fairness
5 and a champion of fiscal responsibility, Representative
6 Luciano "Lucky" Varela is retiring at the end of the 2016
7 legislative session; and

8 WHEREAS, a Democrat, Representative Varela will have
9 represented Santa Fe house district 48, which encompasses
10 southern and southwestern Santa Fe, for fifteen terms, from
11 1987 to 2016; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is considered to be one
13 of the chief experts overseeing the state's difficult and
14 complicated budgetary process in the legislature; and

15 WHEREAS, former Governor Bill Richardson once said that
16 Representative Varela has forgotten more than most people
17 will ever know about state finances; and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has exhibited his
19 considerable financial acumen while serving on the house
20 appropriations and finance committee as deputy chair from
21 2005 to 2014, vice chair from 2001 to 2004 and as a committee
22 member from 1987 to 2000 and from 2015 to 2016; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Varela also has been
24 instrumental in guiding the budget discussions on the
25 legislative finance committee as either chair or vice chair

1 of the committee from 2001 to 2014 and as a member from 2015
2 to 2016; and

3 WHEREAS, during his tenure, Representative Varela served
4 on almost every standing and interim committee of the
5 legislature; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is a trusted advisor and
7 mentor to many of his fellow legislators; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Varela retired from state
9 government as the state comptroller of the department of
10 finance and administration; and

11 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Representative Varela
12 has been a staunch advocate for those most in need of a
13 voice: the children of New Mexico, the elderly and the poor;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has always expressed
16 concern for the education of New Mexico's youth and has been
17 especially focused on the well-being of at-risk youth; and

18 WHEREAS, because of his concern, Luna community college
19 has established the Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela
20 math and science summer institute to serve students from
21 Pecos, New Mexico, a community close to Representative
22 Varela's heart, and to serve students from San Miguel,
23 Guadalupe, Mora and Colfax counties as well; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has focused on the
25 difficulty of people overcoming the impacts of poverty from

1 birth and has been a supporter of core programs focusing on
2 the well-being of very young children; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Varela supports state workers
4 and educators and was often at the forefront of advocating
5 salary increases and sound pension reform plans for the
6 public employee and educational retirement plans; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has cited his major
8 professional accomplishment as his public service and
9 advocacy for children and the elderly and equality for all;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has cited his major
12 personal accomplishment as raising a family and providing for
13 its well-being and providing a good future for his
14 grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, as Representative Varela winds down a political
16 career that has benefited New Mexico immeasurably, he leaves
17 office on his own terms, with the respect of his colleagues,
18 legislative staff and the many friends he has encountered
19 over his esteemed career; and

20 WHEREAS, the residents of New Mexico have benefited from
21 the representation provided by this principled, intelligent,
22 fair and honorable man;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Representative
25 Luciano "Lucky" Varela be recognized and honored for his long

1 and distinguished career of public service; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

3 transmitted to Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela.=====

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