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A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 13, 2020 "FOSTER PARENT AND ADVOCATE DAY"
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, hundreds of New Mexicans serve as foster parents to children who are removed from their homes, through no fault of their own, because the homes are not safe places for them; and

WHEREAS, foster parents provide unconditional love, care and commitment to displaced children; and

WHEREAS, according to the children, youth and families department, in fiscal year 2018, there were two thousand five hundred thirty-one children in foster care; and

WHEREAS, foster parents participated in three hundred eleven finalized adoptions; and

WHEREAS, foster parents are ready to receive a child at a moment's notice, without any previous knowledge or information about the child or how long the child will need their care; and

WHEREAS, foster parents exemplify selflessness and community by building positive connections and experiences for foster children by doing their best to provide stability and security for those children; and

WHEREAS, foster parents open their homes and their hearts to children who need love and support, while

1 respecting and fostering connections to the children's
2 culture, religion and community; and

3 WHEREAS, foster parents help children in foster care
4 realize that they are not alone and that others care for
5 them; and

6 WHEREAS, foster parents help children build self-esteem
7 and confidence and provide structure that will contribute to
8 healthy and engaging lives; and

9 WHEREAS, foster parents have the joy and privilege of
10 parenting and learning from children who did not decide to be
11 placed under the state's care but, like all children, have so
12 much to offer;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 13,
15 2020 be declared "Foster Parent and Advocate Day" in the
16 house of representatives; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families.

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