

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING 2020 THE "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE NURSE AND
3 MIDWIFE" AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF NURSES AND MIDWIVES ON
4 THE HEALTH CARE OF ALL NEW MEXICANS.

5
6 WHEREAS, the nursing profession has the largest group of
7 health care professionals in the United States and New Mexico
8 and is the most trusted profession in the country; and

9 WHEREAS, nurses provide care to patients from the
10 beginning to the end of life; and

11 WHEREAS, nurses practice in all health care settings
12 without bias regarding social status, ethnicity, diversity,
13 gender or religion of the patients in their care; and

14 WHEREAS, nurses are filling new roles and care
15 innovations to meet the ever-growing demand for health and
16 health care services; and

17 WHEREAS, the history of nurse-midwifery in New Mexico is
18 part of the profession's earliest history in the United
19 States; and

20 WHEREAS, nurse-midwives responded to New Mexico's
21 highest maternal mortality rate in the United States in 1943
22 with the founding of the Catholic clinic in Santa Fe; and

23 WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, a plan developed by Sister
24 Theophane for a school of nurse-midwifery was accepted by the
25 archbishop, the director of the national children's bureau in

1 Washington, D.C., and the New Mexico welfare and public
2 health department; and

3 WHEREAS, the earliest regulations governing the practice
4 of midwifery in New Mexico were promulgated by the state
5 board of public health on May 4, 1944; and

6 WHEREAS, the official manual for midwives published in
7 1955 assisted New Mexican midwives who had attended classes
8 in midwifery; and

9 WHEREAS, both licensed and certified nurse-midwives are
10 regulated by the department of health and have grown to be a
11 significant part of the health care workforce of the state;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in spite of the major roles nurses play in
14 health care delivery and community outreach, there remain
15 opportunities to increase understanding of the value of
16 nursing; and

17 WHEREAS, nurses look forward to working with partner
18 organizations to communicate a contemporary and accurate view
19 of the nursing profession and the critical work nurses do;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the New Mexico nurses association joins the
22 American nurses association in recognizing the impact of the
23 nursing profession on health outcomes in New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, the world health assembly, the governing body
25 of the world health organization, declared 2020 to be the

1 international year of the nurse and midwife, in honor of
2 Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, on the
3 two hundredth anniversary of her birth; and

4 WHEREAS, the international year of the nurse and midwife
5 celebration offers a platform to recognize past and present
6 nurse leaders globally, raise the visibility of the nursing
7 profession in policy dialogue and invest in the development
8 and increased capacity of the nursing workforce;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that 2020 be declared the "International
11 Year of the Nurse and Midwife" and that the impact of nurses
12 and midwives on the health care of all New Mexicans be
13 recognized; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the secretary of health and the executive
16 director of the New Mexico nurses association. _____

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