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SENATE MEMORIAL 14

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Sue Wilson

A MEMORIAL

**PROCLAIMING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2001, TO BE "DISABILITY
AWARENESS DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE" AND DECLARING LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS THAT SERVE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
LIVING IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.**

**WHEREAS, over nineteen percent of the New Mexico
population is comprised of persons with disabilities, including
young and middle-aged people, seniors, disabled veterans,
paralyzed veterans, parents, husbands, wives, children and
people from all races and ethnic backgrounds; and**

**WHEREAS, disability is a part of the human condition and
is due to varying reasons such as accidents, birth trauma, war,
genetics, environmental contaminants and aging; and**

**WHEREAS, people with disabilities prefer to live in their
own homes and communities so as to be near friends and**

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1 relatives, to work, to go to church and to receive social
2 stimulation from libraries, schools, theaters, community
3 centers, shopping malls, museums and other wonderful
4 attractions in New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, many people with disabilities do not want
6 institutional living, but need personal care services,
7 accessibility of the built environment, home modifications,
8 healthy housing, adequate health insurance and health care and
9 assistive technology to live independently; and

10 WHEREAS, millions of dollars come into the state to help
11 New Mexicans with disabilities through medicaid and medicare
12 programs, vocational rehabilitation programs, housing
13 programs, education and job training programs, in-home care
14 programs and transportation programs; and

15 WHEREAS, these programs need vigilant attention by
16 consumers and legislators to prevent fragmentation and lack of
17 coordination, funding or accountability; and

18 WHEREAS, the legislature has supported New Mexico disabled
19 citizens for a long time and it continues to support them and
20 encourage their involvement with the legislature and society;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
22 OF NEW MEXICO that February 23, 2001 be declared "Disability
23 Awareness Day at the Legislature" in New Mexico; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature support
25 disability programs and direct agencies providing services to

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1 unite and coordinate their programs more effectively to provide
2 timely, optimum and appropriate services that assist persons
3 with disabilities to live and work independently in their own
4 communities; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
6 sent to each state agency that provides disability programs.

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