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SENATE MEMORIAL 5

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Sue Wilson Beffort

A MEMORIAL

**PROCLAIMING MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2002, TO BE "DISABILITY
AWARENESS DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE" AND DECLARING LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS THAT SERVE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
LIVING IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES AND FOR DIRECTING, TO THE
MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE, THEIR SERVICES.**

**WHEREAS, over nineteen percent of New Mexico's population
is comprised of persons with disabilities, including people of
all ages and diverse races and ethnic backgrounds; and**

**WHEREAS, people with disabilities prefer to live in their
own homes and communities so as to be near friends and
relatives, to work, to go to church and to enjoy recreational
and social stimulation from libraries, schools, theaters,
community centers, museums, skiing, fishing, boating and other
wonderful attractions in New Mexico; and**

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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1 WHEREAS, most people with disabilities prefer community
2 living, but may need personal care services, accessibility to
3 the built environment, home modifications, healthy housing,
4 transportation, adequate health insurance and health care and
5 assistive technology; and

6 WHEREAS, President Bush has promoted employment and
7 community living through his "Freedom Initiatives" and
8 Executive Order 13217 in which the president outlines the
9 direction the country should take toward community-based
10 alternatives for people with disabilities and nationwide
11 implementation of the United States supreme court's decision
12 in *Olmstead v. L. C.*; and

13 WHEREAS, millions of dollars come into the state to help
14 New Mexicans with disabilities, both young and old, through
15 medicaid and medicare, vocational rehabilitation, housing,
16 education and job training, in-home care and transportation
17 programs; and

18 WHEREAS, these programs need vigilant attention by
19 consumers, advocates and legislators to prevent fragmentation
20 and lack of coordination; preserve funding and accountability;
21 and promote consumer choice and control in service delivery;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the legislature has supported disabled New
24 Mexicans for a long time and continues to support them and
25 encourage their involvement with the legislature and society;

