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HOUSE MEMORIAL 13

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madalena

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 4, 2004 TO BE "THE ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE" AND EXPRESSING RECOGNITION FOR DIRECT-CARE STAFF WHO PROVIDE COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the association of developmental disabilities community providers is a statewide organization of community-based agencies that deliver quality service options to children and adults with developmental disabilities and to children with, or at risk of, developmental delay; and

WHEREAS, more than forty-five thousand New Mexicans have developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, more than six thousand children in New Mexico have, or are at risk of, developmental delay; and

WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities have

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1 substantial functional limitations related to a mental or
2 physical impairment, including mental retardation and brain
3 trauma; and

4 WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities require
5 specialized, lifelong, individualized services and support; and

6 WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities and their
7 families have increasingly expressed their desire to receive
8 community-based and community-integrated services as an
9 alternative to institutional care; and

10 WHEREAS, the demand for community-based services will
11 continue to grow as family caregivers age, individuals with
12 developmental disabilities live longer, waiting lists grow and
13 services expand; and

14 WHEREAS, outside of families, private providers that
15 employ direct-care professionals deliver the majority of
16 services for persons with developmental disabilities and
17 children with, or at risk of, developmental delay; and

18 WHEREAS, direct-care professionals provide a wide range of
19 supportive services to persons with developmental disabilities
20 and children with, or at risk of, developmental delay on a
21 daily basis, including habilitation, personal care, employment,
22 transportation, recreation, residential support and children's
23 early intervention services, so that those persons may
24 successfully attend school, work and participate in community
25 life; and

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1 WHEREAS, high rates of job vacancy and employee turnover,
2 which may reach more than fifty percent annually, threaten the
3 ability of developmental disabilities community-based providers
4 to achieve their core mission, which is the provision of
5 quality support to persons with developmental disabilities and
6 children with, or at risk of, developmental delay; and

7 WHEREAS, direct-care professionals are well-trained,
8 highly committed individuals who are dedicated to providing
9 high quality, individualized services to persons with
10 developmental disabilities and children with, or at risk of,
11 developmental delay;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that recognition and
14 appreciation be extended to New Mexico's large cadre of direct-
15 care professionals who provide quality support to persons with
16 developmental disabilities and children with, or at risk of,
17 developmental delay; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to members of the association of developmental
20 disabilities community providers.

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