

A JOINT MEMORIAL

DECLARING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2007, AS "4-H AND FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA DAY" AT THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, 4-H youth development and future farmers of America programs have been the premier youth leadership programs in New Mexico for more than eighty years; and

WHEREAS, the 4-H youth development and future farmers of America programs sponsor chapters and clubs in rural and urban areas throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, over ninety thousand youths between the ages of five and twenty-one participate in the 4-H youth development and future farmers of America programs statewide; and

WHEREAS, 4-H youth development and future farmers of America programs are diverse, emphasizing thirty-five life skills, including leadership, responsible citizenship, critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, conflict resolution, respecting others and effective communication, which directly contribute to the successful transition of young people into productive adults; and

WHEREAS, 4-H youth development and future farmers of America programs are involved in partnerships throughout New Mexico with volunteer efforts involving almost six thousand adult volunteers contributing over two hundred sixty-eight thousand hours of volunteer service to the youth of the state,

which service, if it were provided by paid staff, would have cost almost five million dollars (\$5,000,000); and

WHEREAS, 4-H youth and future farmers of America participants reported that being a part of those organizations gave them greater confidence and positive self-identity; gave them greater control over events in their lives by enabling them to make decisions on their own, set goals and take responsibility for their actions; and gave them pride and a sense of purpose and meaning in life;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Thursday, February 15, 2007, be declared "4-H and Future Farmers of America Day" at the legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to New Mexico's 4-H youth development and future farmers of America organizations.