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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO REMOVE THE PENALTY ASSOCIATED WITH  
BEING A MARRIED INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY RECEIVING  
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME BENEFITS.

WHEREAS, in the past, individuals with disabilities were  
not expected to fully participate as equal members of their  
communities; and

WHEREAS, in the past, individuals with disabilities were  
not perceived as capable of developing loving relationships  
with others; and

WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities have the same  
need as people without disabilities to develop and maintain  
permanent loving relationships; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with disabilities hold  
religious and moral beliefs that preclude them from living  
together as husband and wife without being married; and

WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities want to marry and  
live as full members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities often depend on  
supplemental security income from federal social security and  
other governmental benefits for meeting their basic living  
requirements; and

WHEREAS, social security law places strict limits on the  
amount of resources that individuals with disabilities are

1 allowed to hold; and

2 WHEREAS, when two individuals with disabilities each  
3 receiving supplemental security income get married, social  
4 security laws require that one of those individuals receive a  
5 reduced supplemental security income benefit as a marriage  
6 penalty; and

7 WHEREAS, two unmarried individuals with disabilities  
8 living in the same residence each receive the full federal  
9 benefit rate; and

10 WHEREAS, of the three major public income assistance  
11 programs, temporary assistance for needy families, food  
12 stamps and supplemental security income, supplemental  
13 security income is the only one to use marital status in  
14 determining the amount of an individual's benefit;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress be  
17 requested to remove the penalty associated with being a  
18 married individual with a disability receiving supplemental  
19 security income benefits; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to each member of New Mexico's congressional  
22 delegation.

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