

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE NEEDS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUNG PARENTS IN  
3 NEW MEXICO AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 25, 2012 AS A DAY OF  
4 RECOGNITION OF YOUNG PARENTS.

5  
6 WHEREAS, all families deserve respect, trust and  
7 recognition; and

8 WHEREAS, many of New Mexico's young parents are taking  
9 care of their children while learning to balance  
10 responsibilities like school, families and relationships and  
11 jobs and careers, as well as taking care of themselves; and

12 WHEREAS, young parents contribute to vibrant communities  
13 across New Mexico as workers, educators, mentors, artists,  
14 activists, nurses, writers, musicians, stay-at-home parents,  
15 church members, volunteers, voters and more; and

16 WHEREAS, it is a choice to parent, and young parents  
17 have families that are their own to raise; and

18 WHEREAS, the stigma of generational violence unfairly  
19 places shame on young families and increases the stress on  
20 young parents, leaving these families vulnerable and pushed  
21 to the margins; and

22 WHEREAS, the negative depictions of young parents and  
23 their children that are used in pregnancy prevention models  
24 isolate young families and often do not reflect their  
25 experiences; and

1           WHEREAS, all young parents deserve access to culturally  
2 appropriate support and resources so that their families may  
3 thrive; and

4           WHEREAS, additional cuts to programs that strengthen  
5 families will have a negative impact on all of New Mexico;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, positive change in the lives of young people is  
8 rooted in equal access to educational opportunities,  
9 living-wage jobs, affordable health care and safe housing;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, many young parents are raising wonderful,  
12 healthy and happy children; and

13           WHEREAS, all families deserve dignity and equal rights;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, all parents have a future and all families  
16 matter;

17           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that August 25, 2012 be designated as a  
19 day of recognition of young parents. \_\_\_\_\_

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