

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 CONGRATULATING THE LEGISLATURE ON ITS TWO HUNDRED THOUSANDTH  
3 "202" FILE.

4  
5 WHEREAS, the legislative council service was created on  
6 July 1, 1951 as part of a nationwide movement to improve  
7 staff resources for part-time legislatures so they could  
8 function as independent, co-equal branches of government; and

9 WHEREAS, it was the legendary Inez Gill who designed the  
10 legislative council service's filing system, with 202 being  
11 the file set that includes the members' confidential requests  
12 for drafting or research; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1994, the one hundred thousandth 202 file  
14 was opened during the forty-first legislature, second  
15 session, in the rush of requests before the bill introduction  
16 deadline, just shy of forty-three years of the legislative  
17 council service's existence; and

18 WHEREAS, in an historical "blink of an eye", a mere  
19 twenty-one years later, file number 202.200000 was opened on  
20 February 9, 2015, without, sorry to say, the balloons,  
21 confetti and kazoo band the staff was hoping for; and

22 WHEREAS, the 202 files represent the legislative process  
23 in all its democratic glory; and

24 WHEREAS, from raw ideas to engrossing and enrolling, 202  
25 files for bills, memorials and resolutions; for amendments or

1 substitutions; for section-by-section analyses; and for pros  
2 and cons, they are the framework legislators use to hash out  
3 the legal, social, economic and political worthiness of those  
4 ideas; and

5 WHEREAS, as was said in 1994 when lauding the one  
6 hundred thousandth benchmark, "the 202 files have been both  
7 the cradle and the grave for the best and the worst of  
8 legislation"; and

9 WHEREAS, the two hundred thousand files amassed over  
10 sixty-four years also represent the efforts of thousands of  
11 hard-working New Mexicans who have made the legislative  
12 process smoother, smarter and more efficient and effective,  
13 from all the legislative staffs to the members of thirty-one  
14 legislatures, and thousands upon thousands of interested  
15 citizens who have stepped forward in favor of or in  
16 opposition to all those ideas; and

17 WHEREAS, the 202 files are tangible proof of the  
18 importance of a citizen legislature staffed and aided by  
19 professionals who have an abiding dedication to the  
20 legislative branch of state government, the institution that  
21 serves most immediately the needs and wishes of its  
22 residents;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature be requested to  
25 pause and reflect on the system that gives expression to a

1 nation's finest creation, the legislature, in which each  
2 member represents the constituents of the member's district  
3 while balancing the needs of all residents of the state; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this one memorial be signed  
5 by all legislators assembled this day and that the memorial be  
6 framed and permanently displayed at the legislative council  
7 service. \_\_\_\_\_

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