

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE VALUE, RESPECT AND DIGNITY OF INDIVIDUALS WHO
3 HAVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR
4 TO PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MARCH 2015 AS "DEVELOPMENTAL
5 DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH".

6
7 WHEREAS, developmental disability is a natural part of
8 human experience, affecting more than twenty thousand
9 New Mexican children and adults and millions of Americans;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexicans with and without disabilities work
12 together, play together, worship together, learn together and
13 grow together; and

14 WHEREAS, every person, regardless of ability, has
15 valuable strengths, an infinite capacity to learn and the
16 potential to make important contributions to their local
17 communities; and

18 WHEREAS, all individuals with developmental disabilities
19 can be productive, contributing members of their communities;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, individuals with developmental disabilities in
22 New Mexico share with the state's other residents the right
23 to live life as they choose in their education, job,
24 recreation and home decisions; and

25 WHEREAS, the federal Developmental Disabilities

1 Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 seeks to ensure
2 that individuals with developmental disabilities are able to
3 participate fully in their communities through integration
4 and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural,
5 religious and educational sectors of society; and

6 WHEREAS, the federal act seeks to ensure that
7 individuals with developmental disabilities and their
8 families participate in the design of, and have access to,
9 culturally competent services and assistance and
10 opportunities that promote independence, productivity,
11 integration and inclusion in the community; and

12 WHEREAS, the full inclusion of individuals with
13 developmental disabilities and their families into their
14 communities involves engaging individuals in making life
15 choices, partnering with communities to build resources and
16 improving systems of care; and

17 WHEREAS, behaviors and attitudes of all citizens should
18 reflect respect in any interaction with individuals with
19 developmental disabilities, whether in public or in private
20 settings; and

21 WHEREAS, language is a reflection of how people see each
22 other, and it can be used to build up or tear down a person's
23 self-esteem; and

24 WHEREAS, responsible communicators carefully choose
25 language that reflects the dignity of people with

1 developmental disabilities, opting for words that place the
2 person, rather than the disability, first; and

3 WHEREAS, all opportunities to treat adults and children
4 with developmental disabilities with respect should be
5 pursued to promote positive perceptions of all people in all
6 walks of life; and

7 WHEREAS, "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" is
8 an appropriate time to recognize New Mexico's public policy
9 accomplishments concerning persons with developmental
10 disabilities and also to identify the improvements to the
11 public policy that would fully include all of New Mexico's
12 residents with developmental disabilities; and

13 WHEREAS, celebrating the abilities and contributions of
14 individuals with developmental disabilities can only serve to
15 enrich the communities of New Mexico and to enhance
16 diversity;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to
19 proclaim the month of March 2015 as "Developmental
20 Disabilities Awareness Month"; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that residents be urged to take
22 meaningful steps to recognize the value and respect the
23 dignity of individuals with developmental disabilities; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this respect and value be
25 reflected in personal interactions with individuals with

1 developmental disabilities; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public officials be
3 encouraged to identify and eradicate incidents of harsh
4 labeling in their official capacities; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the governor, all cabinet secretaries and to
7 the university of New Mexico center for development and
8 disability. _____

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25