

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY-BASED,
3 YOUTH-CENTERED PROGRAMS CREATED IN DONA ANA COUNTY AS A
4 RESULT OF LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS, THE DEDICATION OF AND CIVIC
5 ENGAGEMENT BY GRASS-ROOTS AND PUBLIC SECTOR ENTITIES AND THE
6 ENTHUSIASTIC INVOLVEMENT OF THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS OF
7 DONA ANA COUNTY.

8
9 WHEREAS, in 2007, Senate Memorial 4 from the first
10 session of the forty-eighth legislature resolved that youth
11 boards, youth commissions and other organizations that
12 encourage the next generation to become more involved in the
13 civic affairs of local and state government be viewed as an
14 asset to the people and communities of New Mexico, to the
15 future of the state and to the development of more active and
16 informed residents; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2010, Senate Memorial 34 from the second
18 session of the forty-ninth legislature recognized that there
19 is a demonstrated need for youth to participate in the
20 governance system of their communities on all matters
21 affecting young people, such as building healthier
22 communities, combating violence, conducting public forums and
23 eliminating substance abuse, and to participate on behalf of
24 community youth on issues such as curfews, cruising, truancy,
25 skateboard parks, underage drinking and "youth space"

1 programming; and

2 WHEREAS, in September 2010, the newly incorporated city
3 of Anthony resolved to create and support the
4 "Anthony teen advisory council" to recommend courses of
5 action to the mayor and board of trustees on public policy
6 issues that impact young adults and children and to increase
7 public awareness of youth issues; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2012, House Memorial 21 from the second
9 session of the fiftieth legislature requested that
10 municipalities create and support youth advisory boards,
11 councils or commissions and recognize the contributions that
12 those entities make to their communities; and

13 WHEREAS, on August 5, 2015, the board of education of
14 the Las Cruces public school district initiated a formal
15 policy to include a student representative at the dais in
16 board meetings, and the board resolved to establish a youth
17 advisory council with representatives from each public high
18 school in Las Cruces; and

19 WHEREAS, in June of 2014 and 2015, a project of the
20 community foundation of southern New Mexico and the Ocotillo
21 institute for social justice organized youth and adults for
22 the planning and execution of a youth leadership development
23 program centered on financial stability, life after high
24 school, team building and youth organizing at the community
25 level; in each year, over two hundred twenty-five young

1 people came together for a two-day conference, resulting in
2 briefings to elected officials on the "burning issues" of
3 concern to local youth; and these two gatherings were
4 supported and sponsored by thirty-one local organizations;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, in the summer of 2015, in response to a key
7 recommendation from the youth conferences that Dona Ana
8 county form a county youth commission, Dona Ana county
9 commissioners encouraged the Ocotillo institute for social
10 justice to create a one-year pilot project to identify the
11 potential benefits of countywide youth participation in
12 public policy and community engagement; and

13 WHEREAS, since 2014, the charitable organization
14 "Ngage New Mexico" has focused on improving educational
15 outcomes in Dona Ana county and has worked with New Mexico
16 state university, the three school districts in the county,
17 representatives of the New Mexico congressional delegation,
18 community volunteers and youth to form the
19 "SUCCESS partnership", which provides a forum for all
20 stakeholders in education to actively participate in
21 evaluating the complete educational spectrum from
22 "prenatal to career"; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2007, the optimist international clubs of
24 Las Cruces, through a committee of volunteers and supported
25 by the mayor of Las Cruces, founded the "mayor's top teens",

1 a program that is dedicated to creating a community that
2 values teens and promotes a positive image of them in that
3 community in which teens from tenth and eleventh grades in
4 local schools are nominated by teachers, counselors, friends
5 and clergy; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2015, the village of Hatch and Hatch Valley
7 high school committed to recognizing the Hatch
8 "mayor's top teens" from applicants chosen on the basis of
9 school activities, church activities, community service,
10 school attendance, grades, integrity and honesty on an annual
11 basis;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of the creation of
14 public-private partnerships that address youth-related,
15 community-based issues and that foster sustainable programs
16 and collaborative projects to increase youth participation,
17 government support and private investment in addressing those
18 issues be recognized and encouraged; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dona Ana county, the city of
20 Las Cruces and the city of Anthony, together with the Ocotillo
21 institute for social justice and Ngage New Mexico, be
22 recognized for their enthusiastic commitment to youth
23 engagement; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that other counties and
25 municipalities and Native American governmental entities in

1 New Mexico be encouraged to create community-based
2 partnerships between private and governmental sectors that
3 bring youth and adults together to recognize, discuss and
4 address issues that will improve the quality of life of youth
5 and young adults; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the mayors of the village of Hatch, the city of
8 Las Cruces and the city of Anthony; the chair of the board of
9 county commissioners of Dona Ana county; the executive
10 directors of the New Mexico municipal league and New Mexico
11 association of counties; the executive head of each Indian
12 nation, tribe and pueblo in New Mexico; the secretary of
13 public education; and the secretary of higher education. _____

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