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HOUSE MEMORIAL 76

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Matthew McQueen

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 13, 2016 "BICYCLE AWARENESS AND SAFETY DAY"
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SUPPORTING BICYCLIST NATHAN
BARKOCY AND COACH STEPHEN WILLIAMSON.

WHEREAS, the growing popularity of bicycle riding brings
with it increased health benefits, reduced pollution and access
to the great outdoors; and

WHEREAS, as the popularity of bicycling has increased,
however, so have the number of deaths and injuries to
bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, the department of health reports that New Mexico
is the nation's second-deadliest state for bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, sixteen-year-old Nathan Barkocy became
the youngest category four racer to win the tour of the Gila in
southwestern New Mexico and held aspirations to win in category

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1 three in 2016; and

2 WHEREAS, Nathan is a sophomore at St. Pius X high school,
3 and, with several other teenagers, races for the TLC junior
4 development team; and

5 WHEREAS, on January 23, 2016, while Nathan was on a fifty-
6 mile training ride, a car struck Nathan's bike near Coors
7 boulevard and Los Padillas road southwest; and

8 WHEREAS, Nathan was taken to the university of New Mexico
9 hospital, where he was in a coma with a traumatic brain injury;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Nathan has begun a long road to recovery after
12 his injuries; and

13 WHEREAS, Nathan's coach, Stephen Williamson, also was
14 struck and injured, although not as severely; and

15 WHEREAS, the driver involved in the accident was cited for
16 careless driving; and

17 WHEREAS, devastating accidents like the one in which
18 Nathan and Stephen were involved happen all too frequently, and
19 awareness of bicycle safety is important; and

20 WHEREAS, bicyclists and motorists alike share
21 responsibility for roadway safety through increasing safe-
22 riding behaviors among bicyclists and heightening awareness and
23 personal responsibility among motorists, according to the
24 national highway traffic safety administration; and

25 WHEREAS, bicyclists can put "safety first" by always

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1 wearing a helmet; riding as a vehicle on the road; traveling in
2 the same direction as traffic; obeying traffic signs, signals
3 and lane markings; signaling all turns and following local
4 laws; staying visible by wearing bright, reflective colors;
5 using bicycle lights at night; and refraining from the use of
6 electronic devices or riding while impaired by alcohol or
7 drugs; and

8 WHEREAS, drivers of motor vehicles must share the road
9 with bicyclists; respect designated bicycle lanes; allow at
10 least three feet of clearance when passing a bicyclist on the
11 road; look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling
12 out from a parking space; yield to cyclists at intersections
13 and as directed by signs and signals; look for cyclists when
14 making turns; never drive distracted or impaired; and always
15 wear seat belts;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 13,
18 2016 be declared "Bicycle Awareness and Safety Day" in the
19 house of representatives; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that support be extended to
21 bicyclist Nathan Barkocy and coach Stephen Williamson on their
22 road to recovery; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to Nathan Barkocy and Stephen Williamson.