

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROBERT "BOBBY" UNRUH, A TOW TRUCK  
3 DRIVER WHO LOST HIS LIFE WHILE TRYING TO SAVE ANOTHER;  
4 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF NEW MEXICO'S EXPANDED "MOVE  
5 OVER" LAW FOR PROTECTING TOWING AND ROADSIDE REPAIR WORKERS.  
6

7 WHEREAS, Robert "Bobby" Unruh is an example of a person  
8 whose death exemplifies the concern and selflessness that  
9 guided him in his life; and

10 WHEREAS, Robert, a veteran tow truck driver employed by  
11 All-Rite towing and repair in Tucumcari, died on February 19,  
12 2017 at age thirty-seven; and

13 WHEREAS, on that day, Robert was dispatched with his  
14 service truck to clean up an oil spill on the freeway; and

15 WHEREAS, another of the company's employees, who had  
16 already arrived at the site of the spill, was setting up  
17 equipment on the side of his pulled-over service truck facing  
18 traffic; and

19 WHEREAS, once on the scene, Robert began directing  
20 oncoming traffic away from his co-worker and a trainee Robert  
21 had brought with him; and

22 WHEREAS, most of the passing vehicles were heeding  
23 Robert's signals and moving over to the far lane, except for  
24 one passing truck; and

25 WHEREAS, recognizing the hazard, Robert cried out a

1 warning, bolted toward his co-worker and shoved him to safety  
2 in the service truck's tool box compartment; and

3 WHEREAS, the passing truck then clipped Robert at the  
4 hips and thrust him into the air; and

5 WHEREAS, Robert died soon thereafter, leaving behind his  
6 fourteen-year-old daughter, Destiny, ten-year-old son,  
7 Robert, nine-year-old son, Leland, and mother, Linda Unruh,  
8 who is now raising the children; and

9 WHEREAS, in the face of her grief, Linda began promoting  
10 the expansion of New Mexico's "move over" law, a measure that  
11 had been proposed in the then-occurring 2017 regular session  
12 of the legislature; and

13 WHEREAS, the measure, Senate Bill 76, provided that the  
14 heightened level of caution that drivers must exercise when  
15 passing public safety vehicles stopped on roadsides and  
16 displaying flashing lights extend also to recovery or repair  
17 vehicles under those circumstances; and

18 WHEREAS, Linda's efforts helped lead to the enactment of  
19 Senate Bill 76; and

20 WHEREAS, many now call the expanded "move over" law,  
21 brought about by Senate Bill 76, "Bobby's Law" afer Robert  
22 "Bobby" Unruh;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the memory of Robert "Bobby" Unruh,  
25 a New Mexican who lost his life while saving that of another,

1 be honored and that condolences be extended to his family and  
2 friends; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the expanded "move over" law  
4 be recognized as important for public safety and for its  
5 potential to save the lives of towing and roadside repair  
6 workers like Robert; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the family of Robert "Bobby" Unruh. \_\_\_\_\_

HJM 7  
Page 3

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