

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING JAMES "JIM" JACKSON FOR HIS TIRELESS WORK OVER
3 THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS IN PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH
4 DISABILITIES AND FOR HAVING ESTABLISHED AND GROWN DISABILITY
5 RIGHTS NEW MEXICO.

6
7 WHEREAS, James "Jim" Jackson was hired in October 1979
8 to establish and manage the nonprofit organization that is
9 known today as disability rights New Mexico, and has served
10 as executive director and now chief executive officer from
11 that time through the present day; and

12 WHEREAS, disability rights New Mexico is the state's
13 designated protection and advocacy system, charged by federal
14 law with promoting and protecting the rights of persons with
15 disabilities, serving persons with a broad range of
16 disabilities and assisting individuals in accessing needed
17 services and overcoming discrimination; and

18 WHEREAS, Jim Jackson has been a member of numerous state
19 advisory groups and task forces and currently serves as a
20 member of the developmental disabilities planning council and
21 the medicaid advisory committee and as the chair of the
22 steering committee for the disability coalition; and

23 WHEREAS, through its advocacy efforts, disability rights
24 New Mexico has had an impact on transforming the state's
25 system for providing services to persons with developmental

1 disabilities from an institutional model to a
2 person-centered, community-based service model; establishing
3 a national precedent for the authority of protection and
4 advocacy agencies to visit with residents of facilities and
5 programs; recognizing the fair housing rights of persons with
6 disabilities; requiring accommodations for persons with
7 disabilities seeking to comment on proposed state rules; and
8 other legal precedents; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Jackson has provided information and
10 assistance to legislators concerning disability-related
11 issues for more than thirty-eight years, including
12 legislation requiring educational services for preschool-aged
13 children with disabilities; requiring the state to establish
14 the developmental disabilities waiver program; requiring the
15 state to participate in the federal special education grant
16 program; establishing services for persons with brain
17 injuries and persons with autism; allowing for mental health
18 advance directives; and prohibiting corporal punishment and
19 the use of seclusion and restraints in public schools; and

20 WHEREAS, disability rights New Mexico was able to
21 purchase a building in July 2016 to serve as its main office,
22 and that building was dedicated last year by the board of
23 directors of disability rights New Mexico as the James
24 Jackson center for disability rights; and

25 WHEREAS, Jim Jackson will be retiring as the chief

1 executive officer of disability rights New Mexico as of March
2 31, 2018 but will continue his public policy advocacy in the
3 coming year as a lobbyist for disability rights New Mexico;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that James "Jim"
6 Jackson be recognized for his tireless work over thirty-eight
7 years in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities;
8 and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jim Jackson be recognized
10 for having established and developed disability rights New
11 Mexico, under its current and former name, New Mexico
12 protection and advocacy system, as an important organization
13 that advocates for as well as educates policymakers and the
14 public on the rights of persons with disabilities; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to Jim Jackson and to the board of directors of
17 disability rights New Mexico.