A MEMORIAL

DECLARING	FEBRUARY	12.	2018	"AUTISM	DAY"	IN T	THE	SENATE.

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder is a neurological disorder that interferes with the development of communication and social interactions skills; and

WHEREAS, one in every sixty-eight children born in 2017

will be later diagnosed as having an autism spectrum

disorder; and

WHEREAS, autism affects people of all races and religions and all educational and economic levels; and

WHEREAS, autism is a lifelong condition that presents challenges to education, employment, housing and community development; and

WHEREAS, parents, professionals, self-advocates and volunteers devote countless hours to improve the quality of life of those affected by autism; and

WHEREAS, early intervention, evidence-based practices and proven support systems greatly improve the outcomes and reduce the lifelong costs of care of individuals with autism and their families; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico celebrates and recognizes the valuable contributions to its communities, businesses, technologies and cultures made by people with autism; and

WHEREAS, the many professionals, families, advocates and $\,$ SM 80 $\,$ Page 1 $\,$

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volunteers working to promote a greater understanding of autism to improve the quality of life of those affected by autism are to be commended;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 12, 2018 be declared "Autism Day" in the senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico affiliate of the autism society of America.

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