

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" PRATT AND RECOGNIZING HIS OUTSTANDING
3 SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

4
5 WHEREAS, William "Bill" Pratt, who served as a
6 Democratic state representative for district 27 as a freshman
7 legislator in 2019, died in Albuquerque on December 25, 2019;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt served one year of a two-
10 year term; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt was born in 1935 in
12 Camden, New Jersey; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt was educated in New Jersey
14 public schools and earned a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan
15 university and a medical degree from Jefferson medical
16 college in Philadelphia; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt was a retired orthopedic
18 surgeon and professor of medicine at the university of New
19 Mexico school of medicine; and

20 WHEREAS, during his medical career, Representative Pratt
21 was an orthopedic surgeon at the Gallup Indian medical
22 center, the Alaska Native medical center and Raymond G.
23 Murphy department of veterans affairs medical center; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt began his term in the
25 state house of representatives after winning a close election

1 in the northeast heights district; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt served on the following
3 standing committees: enrolling and engrossing; health and
4 human services; and local government, land grants and
5 cultural affairs; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt also served on the interim
7 courts, corrections and justice and legislative health and
8 human services committees; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt had a long history of
10 advocacy and leadership on the health security for New
11 Mexicans campaign; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt was passionate about
13 providing comprehensive statewide health care, becoming the
14 leader of the physicians for the Health Security Act group
15 and subsequently serving on the campaign's executive
16 committee until he was elected a state representative; and

17 WHEREAS, during Representative Pratt's first legislative
18 session, he was instrumental in ensuring that funding would
19 be available for hiring consultants to conduct the fiscal
20 analysis of the Health Security Act, and his legacy will live
21 on in the fight to secure comprehensive health care; and

22 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt also sponsored a bill that
23 would have made it easier for independents to run for office
24 by reducing the number of signatures required to file for
25 candidacy; and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt's death was mourned by his
2 colleagues on both sides of the political aisle; and

3 WHEREAS, Speaker of the House of Representatives Brian
4 Egolf stated that Representative Pratt had shown himself as a
5 man of integrity and character and noted that his presence in
6 the legislature would be sorely missed; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Deborah A. Armstrong praised
8 Representative Pratt for his strong advocacy of public health
9 and for co-sponsoring legislation for improvements to the Dee
10 Johnson Clean Indoor Air Act; and

11 WHEREAS, House Minority Floor Leader James G. Townsend
12 described Representative Pratt as an exceptional leader whose
13 collegial character and passion for his constituents will be
14 missed at the state capitol; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt will be remembered for his
16 optimism, his calm nature and his commitment to always "do
17 the right thing" for the people of New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Pratt is survived by his wife of
19 forty-two years, Sally R. Pratt; his daughters, Amy Pratt
20 Candelaria and husband, Danny, and Julie Pratt Mudlo and
21 husband, John; his granddaughter, Katie Blankenship and
22 husband, John; his stepsons, Alan S. Cota and wife, Julie,
23 and Terry M. Cota and wife, Rhonda; and his siblings, Robert
24 Pratt and wife, Alix, and Marjorie Pratt Fink and husband,
25 Robert;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that William
3 "Bill" Pratt be honored and recognized for his public service
4 and dedication to the residents of New Mexico and his strong
5 advocacy for public health; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
7 transmitted to Sally R. Pratt. _____

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