A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE GROWING PREVALENCE OF AUTISM; DECLARING FEBRUARY 13, 2013 "AUTISM DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, one of every eighty-eight children born this year will eventually be diagnosed as having an autism spectrum disorder; and

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

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

WHEREAS, parents, professionals and volunteers devote countless hours to improve the quality of life of people with autism; and

WHEREAS, early intervention, evidence-based practices and proven supports greatly improve the lives of people with autism and reduce the lifelong costs of their care; and

WHEREAS, people with autism make valuable contributions to the communities, businesses, technologies and cultures of the state; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico chapter of the autism society of America advocates for state and federal legislation that supports people with autism and their families; HM 23 Page 1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the people who devote time to helping those with autism and the New Mexico chapter of the autism society of America be recognized for their efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 13, 2013 be declared "Autism Day" in the house of representatives; and

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