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SENATE MEMORIAL 10

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

INTRODUCED BY

Richard C. Martinez

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN AND  
THE SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADDRESS THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES  
THAT FACE GRANDPARENTS; DECLARING JANUARY 28, 2014  
"GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, grandparents hold an essential role in  
maintaining strong familial, cultural and community  
connections; and

WHEREAS, grandparents provide wisdom, insight and guidance  
to their grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, grandparents instill in their grandchildren a  
sense of place and identity; and

WHEREAS, the love of grandparents for their grandchildren  
is unconditional; and

WHEREAS, grandparents in New Mexico are increasingly

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1 undertaking the challenges and joys of raising their  
2 grandchildren; and

3 WHEREAS, grandparents who are stepping up to care for and  
4 embrace their "children's children", giving up retirement and  
5 their "golden years" to once again raise children, are  
6 deserving of recognition and appreciation; and

7 WHEREAS, Las Cumbres community services, inc., is an  
8 organization that provides ongoing services for grandparents  
9 through an active support group and through statewide  
10 conferences to address the issues and struggles being faced by  
11 grandparents raising grandchildren; and

12 WHEREAS, support organizations such as Las Cumbres  
13 community services, inc., should be commended for their  
14 important work because the task of raising grandchildren is not  
15 without its challenges; and

16 WHEREAS, many grandparents raising grandchildren live on  
17 small, fixed retirement incomes; and

18 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren are often  
19 confronted with financial hardship and legal obstacles; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico communities continue to struggle with  
21 drug addiction, domestic violence, unemployment, poverty, teen  
22 births and other challenging social issues that often require  
23 grandparents to undertake a primary parenting role; and

24 WHEREAS, the challenges facing grandparents raising  
25 grandchildren may be exacerbated when caring for children who

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1 have experienced trauma or who are grieving the absence of a  
2 parent; and

3 WHEREAS, despite these tremendous challenges, grandparents  
4 raising grandchildren are resilient; and

5 WHEREAS, children who are raised by their grandparents  
6 remain in a familial household where they receive the love and  
7 support necessary to reach their full potential; and

8 WHEREAS, in the eyes of a child, a grandparent is truly a  
9 hero;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
11 OF NEW MEXICO that grandparents raising grandchildren be  
12 recognized and honored for their tremendous contributions to  
13 their communities and their commitment to raising future  
14 generations; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that organizations that support  
16 grandparents raising grandchildren be commended for their  
17 important work; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that January 28, 2014 be declared  
19 "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Day" in the senate; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to Las Cumbres community services, inc.