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SENATE MEMORIAL 6

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Kent L. Cravens

A MEMORIAL

**PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 9, 2005 TO BE "DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY"
IN THE SENATE AND DECLARING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS
THAT SERVE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES LIVING IN THEIR OWN
COMMUNITIES AND THAT PERMIT CONSUMER-DIRECTED SERVICES.**

**WHEREAS, over twenty percent of the population of New
Mexico is comprised of persons with disabilities, including
young and middle-aged people, seniors, disabled veterans,
paralyzed veterans, parents, husbands, wives, children and
people of all races and ethnic backgrounds; and**

**WHEREAS, people with disabilities prefer to live in their
own homes and communities so as to be near friends and
relatives, to work, to go to church and to enjoy recreational
and social stimulation from libraries, schools, theaters,
community centers, museums, skiing, fishing, boating and the**

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1 many other wonderful attractions in New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, most people with disabilities prefer living in a
3 community but may need personal care services, accessibility of
4 the built environment, home modifications, healthy housing,
5 transportation, adequate health insurance and health care and
6 assistive technology to do so; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States supreme court has promoted
8 community living through its *Olmstead* decision, which urges all
9 fifty states to plan for people to live in communities rather
10 than in institutions; and

11 WHEREAS, millions of dollars come into the state to help
12 New Mexicans with disabilities, both young and old, through
13 medicaid and medicare, vocational rehabilitation, housing,
14 education and job training, in-home care and transportation
15 programs; and

16 WHEREAS, these programs need vigilant attention by
17 consumers, advocates and legislators to prevent fragmentation
18 and lack of coordination, to preserve funding and
19 accountability and to promote consumer choice and control in
20 service delivery; and

21 WHEREAS, Governor Bill Richardson's initiative supporting
22 increased hiring of persons with disabilities within state
23 government is encouraged for all state agencies; and

24 WHEREAS, the legislature has been a longtime supporter of
25 disabled New Mexico residents and continues to support them and

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1 encourage their involvement with the legislature and society;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
3 OF NEW MEXICO that February 9, 2005 be proclaimed "Disability
4 Awareness Day" in the senate; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that disability programs, such as
6 the personal care option and working disabled individual
7 programs in medicaid, and the timely receipt of services under
8 the disabled and elderly and developmental disabilities
9 medicaid waivers be supported and that agencies providing
10 services be requested to unite and coordinate more effectively
11 their programs to provide timely, optimal and appropriate
12 services to assist persons with disabilities to live and work
13 independently in their own communities; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislation that promotes
15 freedom of choice as to whom, what, when, where and how
16 services are delivered and legislation that promotes both self-
17 determination and consumer direction of such services be
18 supported; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the head of each state agency to encourage state
21 agencies to hire persons with disabilities.

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