

1 SENATE BILL 384

2 **47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Nancy Rodriguez

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES; PREFERRING FOR USE IN  
12 THE NMSA 1978 THE WORDS "DISABLED", "DISABILITY",  
13 "DISABILITIES", "DISABLES" AND "DISABLING" IN PLACE OF  
14 SYNONYMOUS WORDS WITH A DEROGATORY HISTORY.

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16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

17 Section 1. FINDINGS--INTENT--PREFERENCE.--

18 A. The legislature finds that providing proper  
19 access to persons with disabilities should not be limited to  
20 physical access but also to removing stereotypes and offensive  
21 words that can obstruct persons with disabilities from becoming  
22 fully functional members of society. The legislature further  
23 finds that the NMSA 1978 contains many outdated and offensive  
24 words identifying persons with disabilities that provide  
25 negative images of those persons. It is the intent of the

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1 legislature that this section recognize the negative impact  
2 that outdated and offensive words may have on persons with  
3 disabilities by acknowledging the past use of those words and  
4 demonstrating for the state's residents the legislative  
5 preference for words that remove stereotypes and promote the  
6 well-being of persons with disabilities.

7 B. In the NMSA 1978, the words "crippled",  
8 "cripples", "crippling", "deformed", "deformity", "handicap",  
9 "handicapped", "handicaps" and "lame" shall preferably be read,  
10 where the context permits and in the proper grammatical and  
11 syntactical form, as "disabled", "disables", "disabling",  
12 "disabilities" or "disability".

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