A JOINT MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009, "DISABILITY RIGHTS AWARENESS DAY" AT THE LEGISLATURE.

     WHEREAS, persons with disabilities and their family members represent over one-fifth of New Mexico's population; and

     WHEREAS, this community advocates with legislators to improve the continuum of disability services statewide; and

     WHEREAS, this community advocates ensuring that disability services are consumer- and family-driven; and

     WHEREAS, this community advocates increasing disability education and training to individuals, families, providers and the general public; and

     WHEREAS, this community advocates providing adequate funding to address the needs of the disability community; and

     WHEREAS, this community advocates ensuring that disability services are provided in a culturally competent manner; and

     WHEREAS, this community advocates using data and information in the decision-making process for the disability continuum in New Mexico; and

     WHEREAS, this community advocates increasing the number of persons serving those with disabilities in New Mexico by providing appropriate employment and housing opportunities

for disability services workers; and

WHEREAS, self-advocates, family members, other advocates and providers strive to ensure that persons with disabilities lead personally meaningful lives, reaching personal goals with resiliency and hope;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Tuesday, February 3, 2009, be proclaimed "Disability Rights Awareness Day" at the legislature to honor persons with disabilities and their families, advocates and providers, who enrich New Mexico's culture and contribute to the continuing improvement in the quality of life of New Mexico's persons with disabilities.