

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 12

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

William P. Soules

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY-BASED, YOUTH-CENTERED PROGRAMS CREATED IN DONA ANA COUNTY AS A RESULT OF LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS, THE DEDICATION OF AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BY GRASS-ROOTS AND PUBLIC SECTOR ENTITIES AND THE ENTHUSIASTIC INVOLVEMENT OF THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS OF DONA ANA COUNTY.

WHEREAS, in 2007, Senate Memorial 4 from the first session of the forty-eighth legislature resolved that youth boards, youth commissions and other organizations that encourage the next generation to become more involved in the civic affairs of local and state government be viewed as an asset to the people and communities of New Mexico, to the future of the state and to the development of more active and informed residents; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Senate Memorial 34 from the second session of the forty-ninth legislature recognized that there is

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 a demonstrated need for youth to participate in the governance
2 system of their communities on all matters affecting young
3 people, such as building healthier communities, combating
4 violence, conducting public forums and eliminating substance
5 abuse, and to participate on behalf of community youth on
6 issues such as curfews, cruising, truancy, skateboard parks,
7 underage drinking and "youth space" programming; and

8 WHEREAS, in September 2010, the newly incorporated city of
9 Anthony resolved to create and support the "Anthony teen
10 advisory council" to recommend courses of action to the mayor
11 and board of trustees on public policy issues that impact young
12 adults and children and to increase public awareness of youth
13 issues; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2012, House Memorial 21 from the second
15 session of the fiftieth legislature requested that
16 municipalities create and support youth advisory boards,
17 councils or commissions and recognize the contributions that
18 those entities make to their communities; and

19 WHEREAS, on August 5, 2015, the board of education of the
20 Las Cruces public school district initiated a formal policy to
21 include a student representative at the dais in board meetings,
22 and the board resolved to establish a youth advisory council
23 with representatives from each public high school in Las
24 Cruces; and

25 WHEREAS, in June of 2014 and 2015, a project of the

.202552.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 community foundation of southern New Mexico and the Ocotillo
2 institute for social justice organized youth and adults for the
3 planning and execution of a youth leadership development
4 program centered on financial stability, life after high
5 school, team building and youth organizing at the community
6 level; in each year, over two hundred twenty-five young people
7 came together for a two-day conference, resulting in briefings
8 to elected officials on the "burning issues" of concern to
9 local youth; and these two gatherings were supported and
10 sponsored by thirty-one local organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, in the summer of 2015, in response to a key
12 recommendation from the youth conferences that Dona Ana county
13 form a county youth commission, Dona Ana county commissioners
14 encouraged the Ocotillo institute for social justice to create
15 a one-year pilot project to identify the potential benefits of
16 countywide youth participation in public policy and community
17 engagement; and

18 WHEREAS, since 2014, the charitable organization "Ngage
19 New Mexico" has focused on improving educational outcomes in
20 Dona Ana county and has worked with New Mexico state
21 university, the three school districts in the county,
22 representatives of the New Mexico congressional delegation,
23 community volunteers and youth to form the "SUCCESS
24 partnership", which provides a forum for all stakeholders in
25 education to actively participate in evaluating the complete

.202552.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 educational spectrum from "prenatal to career"; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2007, the optimist international clubs of Las
3 Cruces, through a committee of volunteers and supported by the
4 mayor of Las Cruces, founded the "mayor's top teens", a program
5 that is dedicated to creating a community that values teens and
6 promotes a positive image of them in that community in which
7 teens from tenth and eleventh grades in local schools are
8 nominated by teachers, counselors, friends and clergy; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2015, the village of Hatch and Hatch Valley
10 high school committed to recognizing the Hatch "mayor's top
11 teens" from applicants chosen on the basis of school
12 activities, church activities, community service, school
13 attendance, grades, integrity and honesty on an annual basis;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
15 OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of the creation of public-
16 private partnerships that address youth-related, community-
17 based issues and that foster sustainable programs and
18 collaborative projects to increase youth participation,
19 government support and private investment in addressing those
20 issues be recognized and encouraged; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dona Ana county, the city of
22 Las Cruces and the city of Anthony, together with the Ocotillo
23 institute for social justice and Ngage New Mexico, be
24 recognized for their enthusiastic commitment to youth
25 engagement; and

.202552.1

