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SENATE MEMORIAL 24

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

William P. Soules

A MEMORIAL

IN MEMORY OF KAREN TRUJILLO, PH.D., AN ADVOCATE AND CHAMPION
FOR THE CHILDREN OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Karen Trujillo, Ph.D., a widely admired and
respected educator, passed away on February 25, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo dedicated herself to mentoring
students in her roles as a teacher, educator and administrator;
and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was the superintendent of the Las
Cruces public school district at the time of her death; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo initially served as interim
superintendent of the Las Cruces public school district since
September 2019, and the Las Cruces board of education named her
superintendent in February 2020; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was a steady and compassionate

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1 leader who led the district after a cyberattack crippled
2 digital systems and then through the coronavirus disease 2019
3 pandemic, which forced the schools to move to remote learning;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was credited with bringing calm to
6 the district at an uncertain time; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo previously served as the secretary
8 of public education in 2019; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was passionate about education and
10 was a classroom teacher and had been a math teacher at Alma
11 d'Arte charter high school in Las Cruces, a history teacher at
12 Cobre high school in Bayard and a math teacher at Las Cruces
13 high school; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2016, Dr. Trujillo established the science,
15 technology, engineering and mathematics outreach alliance
16 research center, which became the Southwest outreach academic
17 research evaluation and policy center, and her prized
18 accomplishment was creating the annual teacher shortage report;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo served as an interim associate dean
21 for research at New Mexico state university's college of
22 education and research director for the college's alliance for
23 advancement of teaching and learning; and

24 WHEREAS, one of Dr. Trujillo's last actions was getting
25 the Las Cruces board of education's approval for a hybrid

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1 learning model that reopened schools at all grade levels; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was also recognized as a dedicated
3 public servant and, in 2018, was elected to the board of county
4 commissioners of Dona Ana county, and, shortly after taking
5 office, the board elected her to be the chair; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo is remembered as a warm, vibrant
7 person who was open and friendly; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo's friends and colleagues knew her as
9 a tireless advocate for students and admired her calm and
10 thoughtful manner; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo touched many lives, and her spirit
12 and compassion will be missed; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo is survived by her husband, Ben
14 Trujillo, and their three children;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
16 OF NEW MEXICO that Dr. Karen Trujillo be remembered for her
17 advocacy as a champion for the children of New Mexico; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the family of Dr. Karen Trujillo.