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HOUSE MEMORIAL 58

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson and Javier Martínez and Brian Egolf and
Gail Chasey and Doreen Y. Gallegos

A MEMORIAL

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE DEBORAH A. ARMSTRONG AND RECOGNIZING
HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Representative Deborah A. Armstrong, a Democrat,
was elected to represent district 17 in Bernalillo county in
2014, served her first term in 2015 and will have served eight
years and four terms by the end of 2022; and

WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong is a member of the house
judiciary committee and an advisory member of the courts,
corrections and justice committee and the legislative health
and human services committee; and

WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong served as the secretary
of aging and long-term services from 2004 to 2007 and was a
public member of the board of acupuncture and oriental
medicine; and

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1 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong received her bachelor of
2 science degree from the university of Michigan in 1975 and her
3 juris doctor degree from the university of New Mexico in 2001
4 and was a licensed physical therapist; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong is the president of
6 Albuquerque-based Delta consulting group, incorporated; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong has been a physical
8 therapist for more than thirty years and has been one of two
9 physical therapists to serve at the same time in the
10 legislature, making New Mexico the only state with this
11 distinction; and

12 WHEREAS, as a physical therapist, Representative Armstrong
13 developed a passion for home- and community-based services and
14 patient autonomy in decision making, which prompted her to
15 increasingly focus on her work in health care and later to
16 attend law school to further her interests in health policy and
17 advocacy and to eventually accept an appointment as secretary
18 of aging and long-term services; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong brought to the
20 legislature unmatched expertise in health care; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong's professional mission
22 is to provide leadership in the development and effectuation of
23 public policies that protect patients' rights and promote
24 affordable access to quality health care for all; and

25 WHEREAS, through Representative Armstrong's work, she

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1 hopes to instill in her three children a passion for community
2 service; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong's commitment to this
4 mission led her to become the executive director of the New
5 Mexico medical insurance pool, a safety net program that
6 provides health insurance for people with serious medical
7 conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong not only had
9 professional and educational expertise in developing a health
10 care safety net but also had lived experience, with her now-
11 adult daughter being diagnosed with childhood-onset metastatic
12 thyroid cancer; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong's proudest personal
14 accomplishment is leading with excellence in all of the
15 aforementioned venues; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong is a good friend, a
17 dedicated family woman and an exemplar of strength while facing
18 personal challenges and is extremely calm and strong under
19 pressure; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong's experiences at the
21 council of state governments western legislative academy and as
22 a Toll fellowship program recipient contributed to her
23 reputation as a respected and effective leader; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong has navigated personal
25 trials and tribulations, yet never lost sight in delivering

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1 transformational change to the people of New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Armstrong's proudest
3 accomplishments in the legislature include her work on the Lynn
4 and Erin Compassionate Use Act and the Elizabeth Whitefield
5 End-of-Life Options Act, and she is also known for her
6 leadership in repealing an outdated abortion ban law;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Representative
9 Deborah A. Armstrong be recognized for her commitment to health
10 care advocacy and compassion; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
12 transmitted to Representative Deborah A. Armstrong.