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HOUSE MEMORIAL 4

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Gloria C. Vaughn

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A MEMORIAL

**EXPRESSING RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FOR DIRECT CARE STAFF
WHO PROVIDE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.**

**WHEREAS, there are more than eight million Americans who
have mental retardation or other developmental disabilities;
and**

**WHEREAS, there are more than twenty-seven thousand New
Mexicans who have mental retardation or other developmental
disabilities; and**

**WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities of any
age have substantial functional limitations related to a mental
or physical impairment, including mental retardation and brain
trauma; and**

**WHEREAS, these persons require specialized, lifelong
individualized services and support; and**

underscored material = new
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1 WHEREAS, for the past two decades, individuals with mental
2 retardation or developmental disabilities and their families
3 have increasingly expressed their desire to receive community-
4 based and community-integrated services as an alternative to
5 institutional care; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States supreme court, in its *Olmstead*
7 decision, affirmed the right of these individuals to receive
8 community-based care as an alternative to institutional care;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the demand for community-based care is growing as
11 states move to comply with the *Olmstead* decision and continue
12 to move more individuals from institutions into the community;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the demand will continue to grow as family
15 caregivers age, individuals with mental retardation or
16 developmental disabilities live longer, waiting lists grow and
17 services expand; and

18 WHEREAS, outside of families, private providers that
19 employ direct support professionals deliver the majority of
20 services for individuals with mental retardation or
21 developmental disabilities; and

22 WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide a wide range
23 of supportive services to individuals with mental retardation
24 or other developmental disabilities on a day-to-day basis,
25 including habilitation, health needs, personal care, hygiene,

underscored material = new
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1 employment, transportation, recreation, housekeeping and other
2 home management-related supports and services so that these
3 individuals can live and work in their communities; and

4 WHEREAS, high rates of employee vacancies and turnover
5 rates ranging from forty to seventy-five percent annually
6 threaten the ability of providers to achieve their core
7 mission, which is the provision of safe and quality supports to
8 individuals with mental retardation or other developmental
9 disabilities;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that recognition and
12 appreciation be extended to New Mexico's large cadre of
13 dedicated direct support professionals, who provide quality
14 community-based services to persons with developmental
15 disabilities; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to each identified developmental disabilities
18 community-based care provider.

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