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SENATE MEMORIAL 14

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

A MEMORIAL

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

**WHEREAS, community-based agencies statewide deliver
quality services to children and adults with developmental
disabilities and to children with, or at risk of, developmental
delay; and**

**WHEREAS, there are more than forty-five thousand
individuals in New Mexico with developmental disabilities; and**

**WHEREAS, there are more than six thousand children in New
Mexico that have, or are at risk of, developmental delay; and**

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

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1 WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities require
2 specialized, lifelong individualized services and support; and

3 WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities and their
4 families have increasingly expressed their desire to receive
5 community-based and community-integrated services in preference
6 to institutional care; and

7 WHEREAS, the demand for community-based care continues to
8 grow as family caregivers age, individuals with developmental
9 disabilities live longer, waiting lists grow and services
10 expand; and

11 WHEREAS, other than family caregivers, private provider
12 employers of direct-care professionals deliver the majority of
13 services for persons with developmental disabilities and
14 children with developmental delay; and

15 WHEREAS, direct-care professionals provide a wide array of
16 supportive services to individuals with developmental
17 disabilities and to children with, or at risk of, developmental
18 delay on a daily basis, including habilitation, personal care,
19 employment, transportation, recreation, residential support and
20 children's early intervention services, so that these
21 individuals can successfully live, attend school, work and
22 participate in community life; and

23 WHEREAS, high employee vacancy and turnover rates of more
24 than fifty percent annually threaten the ability of providers
25 to achieve their core mission, which is the provision of safe

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1 and high quality support to individuals with developmental
2 disabilities; and

3 WHEREAS, direct-care professionals are well-trained
4 committed individuals, dedicated to providing quality
5 individualized services to persons with developmental
6 disabilities and to children with, or at risk of, developmental
7 delay;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
9 OF NEW MEXICO that recognition and appreciation be expressed to
10 New Mexico's large cadre of direct-care professionals who
11 provide quality community-based services to persons with
12 developmental disabilities and to children with, or at risk of,
13 developmental delay; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the statewide association of developmental
16 disability providers.