

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 9, 2005 TO BE "DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY"  
3 IN THE SENATE AND DECLARING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS  
4 THAT SERVE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES LIVING IN THEIR OWN  
5 COMMUNITIES AND THAT PERMIT CONSUMER-DIRECTED SERVICES.  
6

7 WHEREAS, over twenty percent of the population of New  
8 Mexico is comprised of persons with disabilities, including  
9 young and middle-aged people, seniors, disabled veterans,  
10 paralyzed veterans, parents, husbands, wives, children and  
11 people of all races and ethnic backgrounds; and

12 WHEREAS, people with disabilities prefer to live in  
13 their own homes and communities so as to be near friends and  
14 relatives, to work, to go to church and to enjoy recreational  
15 and social stimulation from libraries, schools, theaters,  
16 community centers, museums, skiing, fishing, boating and the  
17 many other wonderful attractions in New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, most people with disabilities prefer living in  
19 a community but may need personal care services,  
20 accessibility of the built environment, home modifications,  
21 healthy housing, transportation, adequate health insurance  
22 and health care and assistive technology to do so; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States supreme court has promoted  
24 community living through its *Olmstead* decision, which urges  
25 all fifty states to plan for people to live in communities

1 rather than in institutions; and

2 WHEREAS, millions of dollars come into the state to help  
3 New Mexicans with disabilities, both young and old, through  
4 medicaid and medicare, vocational rehabilitation, housing,  
5 education and job training, in-home care and transportation  
6 programs; and

7 WHEREAS, these programs need vigilant attention by  
8 consumers, advocates and legislators to prevent fragmentation  
9 and lack of coordination, to preserve funding and  
10 accountability and to promote consumer choice and control in  
11 service delivery; and

12 WHEREAS, Governor Bill Richardson's initiative  
13 supporting increased hiring of persons with disabilities  
14 within state government is encouraged for all state agencies;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the legislature has been a longtime supporter  
17 of disabled New Mexico residents and continues to support  
18 them and encourage their involvement with the legislature and  
19 society;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 9, 2005 be proclaimed  
22 "Disability Awareness Day" in the senate; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that disability programs, such as  
24 the personal care option and working disabled individual  
25 programs in medicaid, and the timely receipt of services

1 under the disabled and elderly and developmental disabilities  
2 medicaid waivers be supported and that agencies providing  
3 services be requested to unite and coordinate more  
4 effectively their programs to provide timely, optimal and  
5 appropriate services to assist persons with disabilities to  
6 live and work independently in their own communities; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislation that promotes  
8 freedom of choice as to whom, what, when, where and how  
9 services are delivered and legislation that promotes both  
10 self-determination and consumer direction of such services be  
11 supported; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the head of each state agency to encourage  
14 state agencies to hire persons with disabilities. \_\_\_\_\_

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