

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THAT FATHERS MATTER TO KIDS, KIDS MATTER TO
3 FATHERS AND FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER OFF WHEN
4 FATHERS AND CHILDREN ARE POSITIVELY ENGAGED IN EACH OTHER'S
5 LIVES; DECLARING AUGUST 10, 2012 "NEW MEXICO FATHERS AND
6 FAMILIES DAY" IN THE SENATE.

7
8 WHEREAS, on August 10, 2010, over two hundred
9 individuals, including state officials, elected
10 representatives, program service providers, policymakers,
11 fathers, grandfathers, children and other family members from
12 across New Mexico, attended the daylong New Mexico fatherhood
13 forum hosted at the university of New Mexico-Valencia campus
14 in Los Lunas, one of a series of fatherhood forums sponsored
15 by the white house office of faith-based and neighborhood
16 partnerships and the New Mexico office of rural development
17 of the United States department of agriculture and organized
18 collaboratively by the New Mexico alliance for fathers and
19 families; and

20 WHEREAS, that forum was hosted as a response to
21 President Obama's call for a national conversation on
22 fatherhood and personal responsibility, which gave voice for
23 a statewide and national movement calling for policies and
24 programs to support positive father engagement; acknowledging
25 that responsible, loving father engagement positively affects

1 families and communities; and acknowledging that the absence
2 of fathers from families has a negative impact with social
3 costs measurable by higher rates of incarceration, drug and
4 alcohol abuse and addiction, teen pregnancy, student
5 dropouts, child abuse and violence; and

6 WHEREAS, "our state is at or near the bottom of
7 virtually every national indicator of the well-being of
8 children, youth and families, and we consider that standing
9 unacceptable"; and we are challenged with the realization of
10 a shared, common determination in a New Mexico that still has
11 much to honor and celebrate among our many enduring native
12 traditional cultures rooted in values of respect for family
13 that embrace the unique diversity of New Mexicans and
14 encourage positive fatherly relationships without demeaning
15 the role of mothers; and

16 WHEREAS, the alliance for fathers and families produced
17 a report delivered to the white house that addressed key
18 policy issues focused on education and early childhood,
19 health and human services, judicial systems and work force
20 and economic development and that may serve as a blueprint
21 for action in New Mexico for years to come; and

22 WHEREAS, the driving force behind the first New Mexico
23 fatherhood forum was the newly formed New Mexico alliance for
24 fathers and families, composed of more than two dozen social
25 nonprofit organizations, state agencies, community and

1 faith-based organizations and social service agencies, along
2 with support from the office of the lieutenant governor and
3 the New Mexico congressional delegation, which included staff
4 support from both of New Mexico's senators, and which shall
5 be the organizer of subsequent fatherhood forums in New
6 Mexico;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico alliance for fathers
9 and families be recognized as a statewide coalition of
10 organizations and individuals dedicated to creating a culture
11 of positive father engagement by advocating for needed policy
12 changes, promoting effective programs and attracting new
13 resources to New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that August 10, 2012, the date of
15 second New Mexico fatherhood forum, be declared "New Mexico
16 Fathers and Families Day" in the senate; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the offices of the governor and lieutenant
19 governor, the New Mexico congressional delegation, the New
20 Mexico children's cabinet and the white house office of
21 faith-based and neighborhood partnerships. _____