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SENATE MEMORIAL 25

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane M. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE NEEDS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUNG PARENTS IN NEW MEXICO AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 25, 2012 AS A DAY OF RECOGNITION OF YOUNG PARENTS.

WHEREAS, all families deserve respect, trust and recognition; and

WHEREAS, many of New Mexico's young parents are taking care of their children while learning to balance responsibilities like school, families and relationships and jobs and careers, as well as taking care of themselves; and

WHEREAS, young parents contribute to vibrant communities across New Mexico as workers, educators, mentors, artists, activists, nurses, writers, musicians, stay-at-home parents, church members, volunteers, voters and more; and

WHEREAS, it is a choice to parent, and young parents have

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1 families that are their own to raise; and

2 WHEREAS, the stigma of generational violence unfairly
3 places shame on young families and increases the stress on
4 young parents, leaving these families vulnerable and pushed to
5 the margins; and

6 WHEREAS, the negative depictions of young parents and
7 their children that are used in pregnancy prevention models
8 isolate young families and often do not reflect their
9 experiences; and

10 WHEREAS, all young parents deserve access to culturally
11 appropriate support and resources so that their families may
12 thrive; and

13 WHEREAS, additional cuts to programs that strengthen
14 families will have a negative impact on all of New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, positive change in the lives of young people is
16 rooted in equal access to educational opportunities, living-
17 wage jobs, affordable health care and safe housing; and

18 WHEREAS, many young parents are raising wonderful, healthy
19 and happy children; and

20 WHEREAS, all families deserve dignity and equal rights;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, all parents have a future and all families
23 matter;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
25 OF NEW MEXICO that August 25, 2012 be designated as a day of

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1 recognition of young parents.

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