

1 A MEMORIAL

2 IN MEMORY OF KAREN TRUJILLO, PH.D., AN ADVOCATE AND CHAMPION
3 FOR THE CHILDREN OF NEW MEXICO.
4

5 WHEREAS, Karen Trujillo, Ph.D., a widely admired and
6 respected educator, passed away on February 25, 2021; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo dedicated herself to mentoring
8 students in her roles as a teacher, educator and
9 administrator; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was the superintendent of the
11 Las Cruces public school district at the time of her death;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo initially served as interim
14 superintendent of the Las Cruces public school district since
15 September 2019, and the Las Cruces board of education named
16 her superintendent in February 2020; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was a steady and compassionate
18 leader who led the district after a cyberattack crippled
19 digital systems and then through the coronavirus disease 2019
20 pandemic, which forced the schools to move to remote
21 learning; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was credited with bringing calm to
23 the district at an uncertain time; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo previously served as the secretary
25 of public education in 2019; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was passionate about education
2 and was a classroom teacher and had been a math teacher at
3 Alma d'Arte charter high school in Las Cruces, a history
4 teacher at Cobre high school in Bayard and a math teacher at
5 Las Cruces high school; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2016, Dr. Trujillo established the science,
7 technology, engineering and mathematics outreach alliance
8 research center, which became the Southwest outreach academic
9 research evaluation and policy center, and her prized
10 accomplishment was creating the annual teacher shortage
11 report; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo served as an interim associate
13 dean for research at New Mexico state university's college of
14 education and research director for the college's alliance
15 for advancement of teaching and learning; and

16 WHEREAS, one of Dr. Trujillo's last actions was getting
17 the Las Cruces board of education's approval for a hybrid
18 learning model that reopened schools at all grade levels; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo was also recognized as a dedicated
20 public servant and, in 2018, was elected to the board of
21 county commissioners of Dona Ana county, and, shortly after
22 taking office, the board elected her to be the chair; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo is remembered as a warm, vibrant
24 person who was open and friendly; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo's friends and colleagues knew her

1 as a tireless advocate for students and admired her calm and
2 thoughtful manner; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo touched many lives, and her spirit
4 and compassion will be missed; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Trujillo is survived by her husband,
6 Ben Trujillo, and their three children;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Dr. Karen Trujillo be remembered for
9 her advocacy as a champion for the children of New Mexico;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the family of Dr. Karen Trujillo. _____

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